

# THE TIMES

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FRIDAY

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## Prison staff called in as children go on the rampage

BY RICHARD FORD  
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

BRITAIN'S first child jail is undergoing a sweeping overhaul during which months of turmoil during which young offenders wrecked classrooms, their rooms and kitchens. More than £100,000 has been spent replacing and repairing facilities at the purpose-built Medway Secure Training Centre at Rochester in Kent, an investigation by The Times has discovered.

Group 4, whose subsidiary Rebound runs the unit, has drafted in an eight-strong team of prison officers and other staff to reassert discipline and support intimidated staff. The scale of the problems facing the centre, which houses 40 persistent young offenders aged 12 to 14 at a cost of £2,400 a week each, has emerged after the departure of 35 of the 100 staff — including the head of education and head of care. There have been 97 assaults on staff, 27 of whom needed medical treatment. The specially toughened bedroom windows have been replaced after the children smashed them with their fists and feet. Wooden doors reinforced with steel are being replaced after the wood was hacked away. CCTV cameras have been destroyed and all bedroom door locks replaced.

Children spend nearly 24 hours a day indoors because as soon as they are let out they run towards the mesh security fences. Two have already managed to escape and one almost reached the M2 on foot. Razor wire has been considered for the top of the perimeter fence but there are fears that even this drastic step would not deter such determined children from attempting to escape. Classes sizes have been cut from five to two because the larger groups were uncontrollable, and children have been given designer clothing and access to computer games to keep the peace.

Mike Taylor, a former supervisor, said that Medway looked "like Beirut: kitchen cupboard doors ripped off, the plastic around the closed circuit television wrecked, the fridge door ripped off, bare wires where they had torn light switches from the wall and the intercom system from their sockets".

Another former supervisor said: "The children bite and kick and spit and headbutt you. We were like lambs to the slaughter. We were told to speak to them nicely. These are heavy-duty juvenile offenders". Last night MPs and penal reform groups demanded that Jack Straw review the operation of the centre and the policy of putting 12-14 year-olds in child jails, designed to Home Office specifications.

Fran Russell, assistant director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "We believe the whole concept is flawed because you are placing the most difficult children in an institution which is too big. They are being locked up and that just causes them to kick and kick hard". In spite of the difficulties that have engulfed Medway, the Government has ordered a rapid expansion of secure training centres. Rebound has already won a contract for one of two new centres opening next May. The Home Office wants future units to house up to 60 young criminals each.

## Revolt by Lords on party lists poll plan

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE House of Lords was last night locked in a battle of wits with the Government after peers threw out for a third time an attempt to restrict voter choice in next year's European elections. Ministers accused peers of illegitimately challenging the constitutional superiority of the Commons and said the Bill introducing proportional representation might have to be dropped. But peers voted by 237 to 194 to give voters the right to back individual candidates in next summer's poll.

The Government insists on a so-called "closed list" system, in which voters would determine how many seats a party wins but the parties themselves would decide which individuals become MEPs. The three main parties have already selected most of their candidates and placed them on pre-ordered lists. Labour insisted the defeat was fresh evidence of why hereditary peers needed to be abolished. It said that without

the hereditary peers' vote, the Government would have won by 157 life peers to 99. The Tories claimed that a cross-party alliance was growing against closed lists, which was privately supported by many Labour peers and MPs. Two previous attempts by the Lords to reinstate so-called "open lists" into the European Parliamentary Elections Bill have been overturned by the Commons. But the Government's attempt to compromise, by promising a review of the electoral system after the poll, failed to win over peers.

If agreement is not reached by the end of next week, when the parliamentary session formally ends, the Bill would die. This could throw the elections into chaos. Even if the Government reintroduced the same Bill later this month and used the Parliament Act to push it through without the Lords' consent, the legislation might still not be ready for the June poll. Ministers will spend the weekend seeking a new, differently-worded amendment, to put before the Commons on Monday, and the Lords on Tuesday. Last night a government source insisted there would be no compromise on the closed-list system.

But one possible option being considered is a mixed voting system which would allow voters to back either a party or an individual candidate. Lord MacKay of Ardshearnish, the Tory constitutional spokesman, said: "I don't see why the country should be saddled by a system designed to suit the internal machinery of the governing party."

## Britons urged to leave Iraq as force looks 'inevitable'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, MICHAEL BINYON AND JILL SHERMAN

ALL Britons were given a warning yesterday to leave Iraq and news organisations were told not to send journalists to the country as large-scale military attacks appeared inevitable. At the same time, the Government issued a dossier to every MP outlining Iraq's secret weapons and describing the potential threat from Iraq "if these programmes are left unchecked".

In Israel, from where hundreds of British holidaymakers were being brought home by tour companies, the Israeli Army's Home Front Command opened 66 centres to distribute new and replacement gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits to Israeli citizens. At Cabinet yesterday, the Prime Minister and George Robertson, Defence Secretary, briefed ministerial colleagues on the latest developments in the confrontation with President Saddam Hussein over

UN weapons inspections. Tony Blair said "the next step is action" unless the Iraqi President agreed to co-operate. Mr Robertson told the Cabinet there was evidence Saddam had "weaponised" nerve agents and that deadly warheads could be produced. After the meeting, he spoke of the "sad inevitability" of force being used if the Iraqi leader did not back down soon. The dossier to MPs, accompanied by a letter signed on behalf of Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, and Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, stated that Saddam's weapons of mass destruction were a symbol of his power and prestige in the region and that he would rebuild his weapons programme unless stopped.

It reminded the MPs that until 1995, the Iraqi leader had denied having an offensive biological weapons programme, adding: "The quantities of biological growth media that are unaccounted for are enough to produce more than three times the total amount of anthrax Iraq admits to producing." Unless stopped, the dossier said, Saddam would be capable of regenerating a chemical weapons capability within months, and a biological weapons capability "within weeks". It continued: "A single Scud missile armed with a VX (nerve gas) warhead could cause thousands of casualties if it hit a crowded city."

As a further sign of the increasing likelihood of a military strike by American and British forces, the Government urged Britons in Iraq to leave immediately, specifically naming journalists. Neither in 1991 before the Gulf war nor during the last flare-up — in February — were journalists singled out.

The Foreign Office said the decision was at the request of ministers concerned that the Iraqis would not guarantee their safety. In another signal of imminent airstrikes, the Foreign Office announced that Robin Cook would cancel a proposed Middle East visit next week if he thought it pointless. He plans to go to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to try to persuade them to put pressure on Saddam — but only if it was felt that they could change Saddam's mind. Officials insisted there was no intention to seek basting rights.

A Jerusalem father helps his daughter try on a gas mask at one of the distribution centres opened in Israel as fears of an Iraqi retaliatory attack grew



INSIDE

### New hope of Ulster deal

The Government opened the way for the first declassification of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland by formally recognising the Loyalist Volunteer Force's ceasefire. Mo Mowlam's announcement raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is preventing implementation of the peace accord. Page 2

### Nursery pair in sex ring

Two nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care — some as young as two — were probably part of a paedophile ring, an investigation of the Shieldfield nursery in Newcastle upon Tyne has concluded. Page 6

### Expenses check

Church of England bishops are to have their expenses scrutinised to see if they really need £8 million a year for chauffeurs, gardeners, chaplains and secretaries. Page 5

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## Irish eyes frown on British wedding guests

BY AUOREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH men and women were barred yesterday from holding their pre-nuptial revelries in Dublin's trendy Temple Bar. Thirty-four hotels and pubs in the centre of the Irish capital banned the rowdy stag and hen parties after a report revealed that their behaviour turns hundreds of other tourists off Dublin, costing businesses about £57 million a year.

The ban will be a blow to the thousands of Britons who every weekend go to Dublin weekend. The wedding parties, often dressed as priests, nuns or sexy nuns, start drinking in the morning, moving from pub to pub and becoming more raucous as the weekend wears on. Future brides and grooms are regularly stripped and tied to lamp-posts while their friends often pick fights with passers-by.

To the revellers, it is all good fun. But their behaviour, repeated every weekend, appeals Dubliners who stay away from Temple Bar on Friday and Saturday nights.

Now tourism chiefs have discovered that the parties are putting off other visitors. A survey published yesterday found that 13 per cent of overseas visitors said the stag and hen weekends would discourage them from visiting Dublin — representing a £57 million loss in income each year. The pubs and hotels have decided that the stag and hen parties are not worth the loss in custom, since they buy nothing but alcohol and spend little on accommodation. Three quarters of Dublin's hotels already refuse them rooms as they break bedroom furniture and disturb the other guests. Laura Magaly, managing director of the company overseeing Temple Bar development, said: "We do not want to be discourteous to our British neighbours whom we welcome to the area but we are sick of seeing people running riot, taking their clothes off and chaining themselves to lamp-posts."

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By OUR SPORTS STAFF

the director, ready to pay around £1 million for him. "As far as Henrik is concerned, there is no thought of his part of leaving Celtic on behalf of the club," McCann said. "He will not be leaving either now or in the future. He is very happy here, as we are to have him."

Peter Rafferty, who has the Affiliation of Republic Celtic Supporters' Club, said he was "delighted" to hear that Celtic was planning to organise a campaign backing the club. Rafferty is excited by the prospect of the takeover, which would prefer more details emerge. He said: "We are

need my position what happens after I leave, matter for the club. I have given the club up my resignation from permission to go on the tour and leaving to the club."

McCann said he was "delighted" to hear that Celtic was planning to organise a campaign backing the club. Rafferty is excited by the prospect of the takeover, which would prefer more details emerge. He said: "We are

the water subsidies nightmare begins

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# Lib-Dem who can make up his mind proves a noble exception

The Noble Exception had entered the Lords Chamber some time before the debate began, but already it was standing-room only. Peers littered the aisles and lounged against the railings. Some sat on the steps to the Throne, like travellers at a railway station. One (Lord Sewell) actually lay back on the Woolpack. Several sat in the gangways, one elderly baron getting down on to the floor with such difficulty that when a seat was finally vacated for him, he was unable to get up again. The Noble Ex-

ception surveyed the scene. Everybody was there — from the functional part of our Constitution, like the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the ceremonial part, like Melvyn Bragg. The dangerous part was there too, represented by Lord Tebbit.

Inexplicably, Lord Donoghue, the late Harold Wilson's Head of Policy Unit, wore one black shoe and one white. Lord Williams of Mostyn, the fluent and civilised minister whose cross it is to bear the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, stared

crossly into space: Baron Fell-Up.

The Noble Exception needed a seat. Just in time for the start of the debate on closed lists, a seat was found on the Liberal Democrat benches. The Noble Exception sat down, looking tense. Lord Mackay of Ardsbreckish, a Conservative former-MP with a gracefully post-Scottish accent, opened the baiting for their Lordships' mutinous amendment.

He spoke with elegance and humour — and a light touch: for his task was to lure shy



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

and undomesticated Cross-benchers — creatures whom nobody owns, the *ferae naturae* of the Upper Forest — out of their wild wood and into an Opposition honey-trap. Down with "the Millbank Tendency"! The choice before peers was between "the people's choice and the party choice!" declared Lord Mackay, as scores of crusty

old Tory barons behind him thrilled to their new-found reverence for the popular will, memories of the Smith Square Tendency conveniently slipping their minds. Mackay coined a new phrase. Alongside new Labour he now discerned "new Liberal Democrats; for Paddy Ashdown's ermined cavalry, groaning under a post-part

three-line whip, were grinding teeth and voting with the Government. Or, rather, most of them were. But, said Mackay, with "a few noble exceptions".

The Noble Exception sat impassive, tense. After Mackay, Lord Shore of Stepney spoke well, exhorting the closed list, suddenly shouting words, as my Grandpa used to. Then he sat down, to an approving general moan. Glancing nervously at a note the Noble Exception rose.

The Earl Russell had guessed that to rebel against

his Party's docility would cost him his front bench job as Social Security Spokesman, but he could not stomach the closed list. How should he vote? "I have never changed my mind so many times," said the Noble Exception. "I changed it five times yesterday," he went on, before deciding finally to vote against.

"I had settled upon abstaining by lunch yesterday," he added — and for a moment we feared his Lordship might take us through each swing of the intellectual see-saw, wobble by wobble, like one of

those *Sunday Times* "anatomy of a crisis" diaries: 7.00am: Lord Russell breakfasts on Weetabix and toast, discussing vote with wife Elizabeth. 7.23: decides to buckle under. 8.15: telephones a friend and changes mind: post arrives...

But he spared us the chronology. In a short speech as drily undramatic as it was brave, he led us within minutes to his conclusion. He was to make trouble.

He did. He was sacked from one of his jobs. Then he was un-sacked. Somebody else can't make up their mind.

## LVF arms move puts pressure on Sinn Fein

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government opened the way yesterday for the first decommissioning of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland by formally recognising the six-month ceasefire of the Loyalist Volunteer Force.

The announcement by Mr Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is preventing implementation of the Good Friday peace accord.

The LVF has promised to decommission a "small but very real amount" of weaponry in front of the television cameras within two weeks of the Government recognising its ceasefire and making its two dozen prisoners eligible for early release. That will put intense pressure on the IRA to follow suit, enabling David Trimble finally to admit Sinn Fein to Northern Ireland's Government.

However Sinn Fein's immediate reaction to Mr Mowlam's announcement last night was negative. It denied

LVF disarmament would put pressure on the IRA and said the LVF ceasefire had to be treated with "a huge dose of scepticism".

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, said the Red Hand Defenders, a new Loyalist group that killed a Catholic in Belfast two weeks ago, was a "flag of convenience" for the LVF.

Kenny McClinton, the terrorist-turned-pastor who speaks for the LVF, confirmed that LVF disarmament would begin "within a couple of weeks" and is to meet John de Chastelain, head of the international disarmament body, today. He challenged the IRA to match the LVF's disarmament on a one-to-one ratio. "If you are looking at the thing from a totally honorable position, then the IRA have got to respond."

Mr McClinton has said that all arrangements for the initial decommissioning of LVF weaponry have been agreed with General de Chastelain, LVF members delivering the

arms would have immunity. Mr McClinton would stay with the weapons until they were put into a metal shredder, probably in Belfast, to ensure there was no forensic testing. The first batch is likely to consist of a couple of AK-47 assault rifles and other firearms.

David Trimble, the First Minister who had been pressing for yesterday's announcement, said he hoped this "positive step will lead to the start of decommissioning. It's now incumbent on everyone to exert what influence they have on the other paramilitary organisations to make a start."

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said he backed the announcement. "This should set an example to other paramilitary groups who have been dragging their feet."

Dr Mowlam said her decision was taken on the advice of her security advisers and was not politically motivated. She was satisfied the LVF had established "a complete and unequivocal ceasefire".



DIANA, Countess of Lindsay, holds her five-year-old son David at the British Red Cross Care in Crisis awards, where she received an award for saving the life of her son, who was lying unconscious in a water culvert.

The people of Omagh - the Northern Ireland town ripped apart by a bomb earlier this year - were presented with a special community award. Representatives from the local Omagh hospital and council were today presented

### Countess honoured for rescue

with awards at a ceremony in London. Awards were also presented to 16 winners from all over the United Kingdom for individual acts of bravery and care. John McKinney, chief executive of Omagh District Council, Glynis Henry, senior nurse at Tyrone County Hospital and David Bolton, Director of Health and Personal Social Services Trust in Omagh collected the accolade on behalf of the town. The blast on August 15 killed 20 people and injured more than 200 others. The Real IRA said it carried out the attack.

Celebrities Helen Mirren, Nerys Hughes, Claire Rayner, John Stapleton and Angela Rippon presented the awards.

### Severed spinal cord 'glued' together

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have repaired severed spinal cords by using a new technique to fuse the broken ends together.

The development is so far confined to test-tube experiments with spinal cords from guinea pigs but is intended ultimately to benefit spinal injury victims such as the actor Christopher Reeve, who was paralysed in a riding accident.

The researchers say it is the first time the severed spinal cords of mammals have been

given back their ability to transmit electrical nerve impulses. Spinal cords were removed from guinea pigs, cut, and fused together with polyethylene glycol, a water-soluble polymer used in medicines and cosmetics.

Tests showed that all the repaired cords were able to conduct an electric current stimulating nerve messages. Richard Borgens, professor of developmental anatomy at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, said: "This technique is likely to be useful in treating recent injuries."

### Whitehall considers more pay for good teachers

By VICTORIA FLETCHER AND JILL SHERMAN

TEACHERS' pay may be partly linked to their schools' results under radical proposals being considered by ministers, Whitehall sources said yesterday.

Schools would be rewarded for reaching government targets, such as for improved exam results, reduced truancy and exclusions, and an increased number of pupils staying on at school after 16.

It is thought that head teachers would be expected to feed

the extra money as bonuses into a "modernised" salary structure, to be outlined in a consultation document next month.

Doug McAvoy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, said such a system would not be a fair measure of a teacher's skills. "The measure of quality of a teacher cannot be based on the results of pupils."

However, Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lectur-

ers, said: "What's wrong with the country investing in success, given that we ensure that less successful schools are getting the money they need too?"

Whitehall sources last night described reports of the scheme as "speculative" but confirmed that school results could play some part in determining teachers' pay. A tough new system of appraisal is expected to be the main method of setting teachers' pay.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### Doctor charged with two more murders

A doctor in Greater Manchester appeared before magistrates charged with murdering two more of his elderly female patients. Earlier yesterday police had exhumed a ninth body. Harold Shipman, 52, who runs a one-man practice in Hyde, Tameside, has been charged with killing Ivy Lomas, 63, and Marie Quinn, 67, in addition to four other murder charges. His appearance before Tameside magistrates came hours after detectives exhumed the body of Jean Lilley, 58, from Hyde cemetery. He was due to appear at court in seven days to be remanded but Dr Shipman was excused having to attend. A committal hearing was fixed for January 7.

Dr Shipman, of Roe Cross Green, Mottram, is alleged to have killed Mrs Lomas on May 29 last year and Mrs Quinn on November 24. He spoke only briefly to confirm his name and address during the five-minute hearing. His wife Primrose, 51, sat at the back of the court.

### Pinochet verdict delayed

The House of Lords has reserved judgment on whether General Pinochet enjoys, as a former head of state, immunity against charges of genocide, terrorism and torture. A panel of five senior law lords said that they would deliver their opinion "in due course" on the appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of Spain against a High Court ruling that the former Chilean dictator's arrest was unlawful. The judgment is expected next week.

### Fight to keep jail baby

A prisoner who gave birth under guard has launched a legal bid to stop her new-born baby being taken away from her in a test case over a mother's right to keep her child in jail. She is trying to block a decision to refuse her a place in the mother and baby unit at Holloway prison, North London. Miss E. 24, who may not be identified for legal reasons, is serving five years for wounding with intent after slashing the face of a rival.

### Davies questioned further

Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, has been questioned several more times by Scotland Yard detectives investigating his mugging on an estate in Brixton, South London. Investigators need Mr Davies to fill in gaps in his story that stretch over three or four hours. One man has been charged with robbery and another five people have been questioned before being freed on police bail. Today Mr Davies will face his constituency party to explain the events.

### Umbrella coverage

People taking their summer holidays in Britain can now insure against rain. Rothwell and Towler, of Devon, will pay part of the cost of any holiday in which it rains on at least half the days. The cover will not cost holidaymakers any extra because it comes as part of a holiday-cancellation package sold through hotels for about £19 for a family. The policies are underwritten by Eagle Star and will cover all parts of the country, not just the drier south.

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# Church is to check bishops' £8m expenses

THE expenses of the Church of England's bishops are to be scrutinised to see if they really need nearly £8 million a year to pay for chauffeurs, gardeners, chaplains and teams of secretaries.

The wide-ranging review will examine their "staffing and equipment needs" for the next millennium.

It was set up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and follows growing concern at the rising costs of maintaining the church's 108 bishops, many of whom live in large palaces.

The cost of episcopal administration, paid by the church commissioners, has risen from £3.9 million in 1988 to £8.1 million last year. £4.9 million was spent on staffing costs and £3 million on other working expenses.

Meanwhile, the amount of money given by the commissioners to support the ministry of the country's 9,500 stipendiary clergy fell from £57.4 million to £19.5 million between 1988 and 1997.

The cost of clergy pensions has almost doubled over the same period, to £82.1 million, a sum paid entirely by the commissioners.

Most of the bishops' expenses — 84 per cent — goes on staff and the rest on equipment, hospitality and travel. Diocesan bishops receive the heating, lighting, cleaning, house and garden items they need to keep the business of being a bishop running smoothly and efficiently.

All working costs will be examined to establish the bishops' staffing and equipment needs for the next century. A spokesman for the church commissioners said: "The review is to do with working costs, it is not to do with fringe benefits."

"Bishops do not receive fringe benefits. The bishops' costs are a statutory charge on the commissioners. If we did

**Review will look at staff needs and living costs for the next century, writes Ruth Gledhill**

not meet them, the dioceses would have to meet them. Everyone is trying to make sure the resources are used in the best possible way."

The wide-ranging review, launched by Dr Carey along with the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will be chaired by Anthony Mellows, emeritus professor of law at London University and a committed Anglican.

Professor Mellows described the review as "vital to the future good of the Church's ministry."

He said: "I am assembling a team with comprehensive expertise and broad experience. I am especially pleased to serve in this way the leaders of the Church in which I have so happily worshipped for so many years."

The working party will not consider the subject of bishops' stipends, which average



Baker: he urged a more modest lifestyle for bishops

out at between £23,000 and £27,000, nor housing. Neither will it look at the costs of bishops' palaces, currently being scrutinised in a separate review which is nearing completion.

Instead, the independent committee, which has been set up outside the auspices of the church commissioners, will concentrate on "resource needs facing the leadership of the Church of England for the new millennium and beyond."

Professor Mellows will report directly to the two Archbishops in 2000.

Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, who has asked at least ten oral and written questions in the House of Commons on the subject of bishops' expenses, welcomed the review.

He said: "It is hardly consistent with the Christian ethic for bishops to cost so much and to employ chauffeurs and gardeners. A more modest lifestyle would better reinforce the basic tenets of Christianity."

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey, who has one personal secretary and seven senior staff, all with their own secretaries, said the review was not intended to examine bishops' current expenses.

She said: "This is a proactive move to make sure the Church of England is properly resourced for the new millennium."

She said not all bishops had drivers, some preferring to drive themselves. Those who did have drivers used their time in the back of the car to write sermons or catch up on administrative and other essential work.

She added: "This is a very positive look at the Church's ministry at a time of growing demand."

"It is not looking at what they are using now, it is looking at what they are going to need in future in terms of staffing and equipment."



Mike Fitzgerald encouraged students to teach themselves. Inspectors said standards were the worst they had come across

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

BRITAIN'S youngest and most eccentric university vice-chancellor, who sported leathery bleached hair and a long-eared earring, yesterday resigned from Thames Valley University after becoming the first victim of a new quality inspection team.

Mike Fitzgerald, 47, whose rare sense of coiffure won him the title of worst haircut on television, established his zany reputation after endorsing diplomas in kite flying and rock music and encouraging the university to sponsor a Brentford FC football match.

But yesterday higher education watchdogs declared that standards at the university were the worst they had ever come across and were now "under threat".

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

## Vice-chancellor quits as university fails inspection

has said there was evidence that the university, based at campuses in Ealing and Slough, fell short of the criteria for awarding its own degrees. It stated that "it is vital steps are taken urgently to protect the interests of current students and to secure public confidence in the university".

During his seven-year tenure at the university, formerly the Polytechnic of West London, Mr Fitzgerald pioneered a revolutionary style of learning, in which pupils taught themselves at their own pace.

It caused outrage among staff. Upon reading the report, which sources at the agency described as the most "distinctly unusual" they had written, Mr Fitzgerald stepped down. "I have done this in the interests of the university and its continuing development," he said.

The report found "some evidence that the university may have lost sight of some basic principles of quality assurance which should be commonplace in an institution with independent degree-awarding powers". The QAA

emphasised, however, that there was "no evidence that individual students have been awarded degrees they should have failed". Once granted by the Privy Council, a university's degree-awarding powers cannot be withdrawn. Instead, the agency said the university required "independent supervision to direct its recovery and secure the standard of its awards".

The Higher Education Funding Council for England today appointed a team led by Sir William Taylor, former vice-chancellor of the University of Hull, and Mr Quentin Thompson, of the accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers, to oversee an action plan for the university. It will involve monthly checks on the financial viability of the university, at which the intake of undergraduates this year was 30 per cent below target.

## Extra cash for schools to hire bilingual helpers

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

SCHOOLS with a large number of ethnic minority pupils are to be given extra money to employ bilingual classroom assistants, the Government announced yesterday.

Schools will also be expected to draw up action plans of how to improve their teaching of such children.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that an extra £430 million is to be spent on the teaching of minorities over the next three years after extensive research has shown that black and Asian pupils are more likely to underperform than their white counterparts. Specific help for these groups, which had already cost £138.5 million this year, was vital to raising standards.

"Children from ethnic minorities are an important and vibrant part of today's Britain and it is vital that we ensure they have the same opportunities as everyone else," he said. "Many Asian children achieve very good results — better than average."

But too many children from ethnic minorities were underperforming. "If you are black or of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origins, your chance of gaining five good GCSEs is half that of white pupils."

He said that the money would go directly to schools to enable them to employ more teachers and teaching assistants to work with their local communities.

The Education Department said that bilingual classroom assistants would not teach pupils in their native language but they would be able to help those who were struggling to understand English.

Statistics show that only 23 per cent of Pakistani/Bangladeshi and black young people gain at least five GCSEs at grades A-C compared with 46 per cent of whites. Indians and Chinese, however, perform better than whites.

Leading article, page 23

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# Jail staff tell of misery inflicted by children

By Dominic Kennedy and Richard Ford

IT WAS a brave experiment: take some of the toughest children in the country, put them together in a caring domestic environment, and encourage them to face up to the errors of their ways.

The philosophy of Britain's first privately run children's jail was summarised in the name of the Group 4 company which runs it — Rebound ECD, standing for Education, Care, Discipline.

Hopes were high when the first children, aged 12 to 14, arrived in April. The staff of 100 had been carefully chosen for their cool tempers. Some were custody officers, social workers, teachers and nurses. Others wanted to work with children, their only previous experience being leading Scout packs.

Seven months on, the Medway Secure Training Centre in Rochester, Kent, is in turmoil.

When the children, who had to be addressed as "trainees" rather than "inmates", arrived they expected a harsh regime.

"They were all really frightened and scared," said a woman supervisor, who left after being thumped by a girl. "We were all very naive and idealistic. We were told that they

would be disturbed children and that we would be able to make a difference to them."

Mike Taylor, 46, a training supervisor who was paid £17,000 a year, said: "My job was to deliver a crime-avoidance programme. It was supposed to be an hour a day. They just said, 'Piss off, we're not doing it.' They ripped the paper up, broke pens or pencils and tipped the tables over."

"The only way I could get their attention was to ask them to tell me about crime. They educated me about fake Rolexes and burglary."

"I watched a young man completely trash a classroom. He broke every pane of glass after barricading a door and then went on to break tables, chairs and filing cabinets. He used a leg broken from a table as a weapon and gouged plaster out of the wall."

"I got bitten three times by a girl who chewed my left arm because I told her not to pull a blind down."

He left in July because of family problems. "When it first started they had high ideals but I became disappointed because the back-up was not there, and we were not prepared for dealing with such vi-

olent young people." Another ex-employee said: "The place was built like a school and unfortunately it should have been built like a prison."

Up to 40 children are looked after in two banana-shaped, two-storey blocks. Their rooms, which staff are forbidden from calling cells, have en-suite showers. Some of the children have left taps running all day, after blocking the drains with paper to cause floods.

"We took the knobs off the cookers so they used their teeth to turn the cookers on and set fire to paper," an ex-employee said.

They are allowed outdoors only when moving between buildings, in case they try to escape over the two perimeter fences, which are 4.8 metres high. Two children escaped by scaling the fine mesh fences, taking only three minutes, as staff watched in astonishment.

The regime was flawed because the staff who were expected to nurture the children also had to lock them in their rooms. "You had to be everything: their care worker, their friend, in loco parentis, and you still had to bang them up at night whether they wanted to go or not," said the woman ex-employee.

A riot in June proved the turning point. A supervisor said: "I cheered when the police arrived." The officers wore riot gear and brought dogs. The staff were in their uniforms. "The police were amazed that we were supposed to deal with it in a green polo shirt and a pair of beige trousers."

Afterwards, prison warders from Liverpool were brought in. A former supervisor said: "You know what prison officers do: they get you in a hold and they can hurt you. They are the only ones the kids have any respect for."

A spokeswoman for Rebound denied that prison officers used extra force. "There are very clear rules of engagement because of the age group. The children know their rights."



Sue Clifton, director of the Medway Secure Training Centre, with staff in their uniforms. Police wore riot gear when they were called to the unit

## Last resort for boy who kept defying the law

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent



Each "trainee" has a room with en-suite shower

LEE is 14 and already has a criminal record stretching back years.

He arrived at the training centre after being convicted of 16 serious offences including burglary, theft, assault and taking and driving away. A further 51 other offences were taken into consideration by magistrates who ordered him to attend Medway Secure Training Centre.

Lee had seven previous convictions but for years had regarded himself as beyond the reach of the law. He believed that he was "untouchable".

He had previously been given three supervision orders, a community sentence that is the last chance before being locked up. Under the supervision order an offender is required to attend courses, such

as drug treatment, or can be given tuition at home.

Lee had been formally breached twice for failing to comply with the terms of the order and had a long history of running away from local authority homes. His youth justice worker wrote in a presentence report that there was a risk that he would reoffend unless he was put in a secure environment.

In spite of this warning to the court, the report said: "I would ask the court to consider dealing with him by means of a new supervision order."

Lee (which is not his real name) had minimum contact with his mother. Although she was supportive of him, she recognised that he was beyond her control. He had had no contact with his father for several years. The case is typical of the 60 children aged 12-14 who have been through Medway.

Many are illiterate, though adept at using computers. One 13-year-old had been playing truant, or been excluded from school, for six years.

Figures show that on average each of the 60 children had spent three years either playing truant or excluded from school before arriving at Medway and each had been convicted of an average seven serious offences. One 12-year-old had 15 convictions.

Fifty-four of the 60 had been in care immediately before being sent to Medway. Forty-five of the 54 had run away from care in the past and 42 of the 54 had records of violence.

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10.30: mid-morning break.  
12.00: back to living units.  
12.15: two units lunch, two others wash and iron clothes.  
12.50: two other units to lunch.  
13.20-13.30: inmates escorted back to education block.  
16.30-17.15: back in house unit, homework, supervised visits.  
17.15: evening meal.  
18.30: social education aimed at improving communication skills, learn teamwork sports.

#### 18.30-20.30: supervised visits.

20.30: inmates back to living units.  
20.30-21.30: supper. Meetings with staff on achieving targets.  
21.30: bedtime.  
22.00: lights out.

#### Weekend routine

8.00: woken, beds made, breakfast, dishes washed.  
9.00-21.00: work to deal with anti-social behaviour, family visits, five-a-side football, basketball and individual counselling.  
21.00: meetings with trainers to look at problems.  
22.00: lights out.

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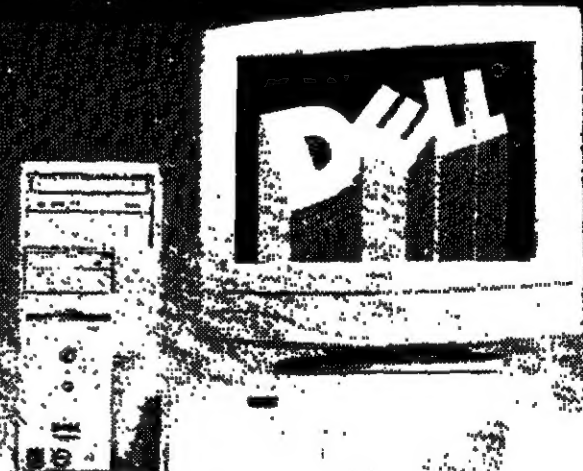
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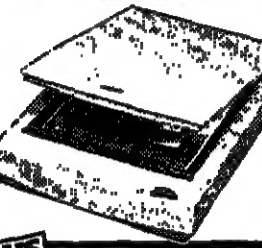


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# Hidden village fights for its low-tech life

**'Lost tribe' hopes outside support will help it to fight off demolition,**  
reports Simon de Bruxelles

AT the age of 16, Martha Orbach says she has been through her period of teenage rebellion.

Living in an "eco-village" in West Wales, though, she could hardly run away and join a band of New Age travellers as contemporaries elsewhere might have done. Instead, she said: "What I wanted were washing machines and a big fridge. I wanted my parents to wear shell suits and drive a big smart car."

"But every time I tried to rebel, my parents just said, 'Go on, get on with it, we're not going to stop you.' It wasn't easy, though I did my best to worry them sick for a couple of years."

Martha, who has two A levels and is studying for a third despite never having spent a day in school, says her revolt stopped once she accepted and understood what her parents were trying to do.

Now the 22 residents of her community near Newport in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park hope the rest of the world will feel the same way.

They have been inundated with offers of support and even financial assistance since *The Times* revealed that planners had ordered the demolition of their experimental straw and turf huts. Although they will appeal, the chances of success are slim.

The eco-village was spotted by the pilot of an aircraft carrying out an survey of unauthorised development in the national park. Its dozen buildings, carefully concealed from the

road by screens of trees, were given away by the glint of sunlight from a solar panel.

For thousands of years people have been building strange structures in the shadow of Mount Carmel in the Prescelly Hills. Few, however, are stranger than the buildings of Brithdir Mawr, which owe much to their prehistoric predecessors. It is not just their design and the use of local materials, but the concept that homes can be part of the countryside rather than imposed upon it.

Brithdir Mawr's founders, Martha's parents Julian and Emma Orbach, bought the 165-acre farm, complete with derelict buildings, for £150,000 five years ago. They recruited like-minded friends and set to work rebuilding the farmhouse and turning the cowshed into an award-winning hostel for rambblers.

But their ambitions did not end there. Mr Orbach, 46, an architectural historian, had previously made unsuccessful attempts to be allowed to experiment with "low-impact", sustainable housing in the countryside. Convinced he would never get planning permission, this time he did not bother to apply.

"How do you explain to planners who think in terms of barns and gables with lawns and at-

tached garages that you want to build a house out of mud and wood with a turf roof?" he asked. "What we wanted to do was to get the structures finished then invite the planners round so they could see and hopefully understand what we are trying to achieve."

Residents of Brithdir Mawr describe themselves as a community, not a commune. They do not pool their income, have their own kitchens and bathrooms and eat together only once a week.

They laugh at the description of themselves as the "lost tribe of Wales" because most have part-time jobs locally and never made a secret of where they live.

The ten adults and 12 children include Brent, an electrical engineer who rigged up submarine batteries charged by a windmill and solar panels to provide lighting; Ianto, a Mancunian builder responsible for many of the structures; and Chris Reynolds, 54, a farmer who wanted to try working with the land rather than exploiting it.

Since Brithdir Mawr's "discovery", the outside world has been beating a path to Tony Wrench's round house, built of clay and timber and roofed with straw and turf.

Yesterday, a television crew from BBC Wales and the producer of a documentary series were the latest guests to share bowls of vegetable soup and homemade bread with the former local government officer.

Elsewhere students from the University of Glamorgan studying environmental development were being given a guided tour of Brithdir Mawr. Inside the hut a wood-burning stove made out of a milk churn provides warmth and hot water, which is stored in an old whisky barrel. The floors of beaten earth have dried hard and its 360-degree windows are the recycled windscreens of old coaches. The entire structure cost him just £2,500 to build and is all but invisible from more than a few yards away.

Mr Wrench, who shares the hut with his girlfriend, Jane Faith, said: "If it's not the cheapest house in Britain, it must be the best value. Though if I have to knock it down again I may have to reconsider that statement."

"Absolutely nothing is wasted. We have a compost toilet and the sink drains into reed beds which act as filters. Apart from the glass, everything is made out of natural materials."

Mr Wrench spends his time coppicing the neglected wood-

lands, turning wooden plates and bowls to sell in the hostel, and working on his ideas for a "permaculture" that would enable the countryside to be repopulated without being destroyed.

As he lugged timber to the horse-drawn cart, Mr Orbach contrasted the planners' ban on the innovative buildings, which include a geodesic dome, a straw and turf goat-hut and a half-built straw-bale house, with their blind eye to more traditional blots on the landscape. Farmsteads elsewhere were littered with out-houses of breeze blocks and corrugated asbestos, rusting cars, mildewed caravans propped up on bricks and, said Mr Orbach, "don't forget the rotting Reliant Robins."

At Brithdir Mawr they have been ordered to fill in a recently excavated duck pond and demolish the ingenious turf and timber bicycle shed.

It is hard work being an eco-villager, besides the ever-present mud and the danger of falling into the compost lavatory. Without the benefit of modern appliances, Martha spends a lot of her time sawing wood and doing household chores. She shares the main house with the other teenager, 16-year-old Sita.

Down the path, the academics were sliding about ankle deep in slime admiring the house of straw. Behind them, was one sight not on their itinerary: the yellow carcass of a rotting Reliant Robin, decaying discreetly out of sight.



Martha Orbach at Brithdir Mawr: she has two A levels, but has never been to school

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bus crash injures 37 pupils

Thirty-seven children were taken to hospital after their double-decker bus was in collision with another bus on the way to school. A fleet of ambulances took the children, aged 11 to 16, to Rotherham District Hospital. The pupils, from Aston Comprehensive School, Sheffield, suffered shock, minor cuts and bruising. Three adults were also injured. The buses collided at a junction controlled by traffic lights. Police are investigating.

### Goalie fined

The Liverpool goalkeeper David James, 23, was fined £800 by Calderdale magistrates for driving at 102mph on the M62 in West Yorkshire. James, twice banned for speeding, had just collected a new Jaguar from Hull.

### 114th birthday

Britain's oldest person celebrated her 114th birthday yesterday. Annie Jennings, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, won her place in *The Guinness Book of Records* this year after her MP, Tony Benn, contacted the publishers.

### Sophie's choice

Vets took a Tin metal skewer from the stomach of a golden retriever that swallowed a kebab whole. "This must be the most expensive kebab ever. The vet's bills came to £400," said Andrew Kneller, of Portsmouth, Sophie's owner.



Tony Wrench: absolutely nothing is wasted, he says



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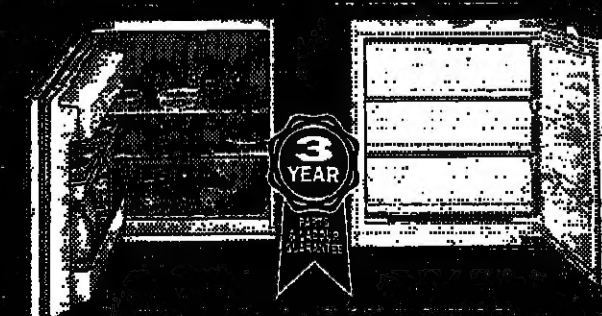
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## Nursery staff 'were part of child sex ring'

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care were probably part of a paedophile ring, an investigation has concluded. Some of the victims were under two.

The inquiry into the activities of Christopher Lillie and Dawn Reed at the Shieldfield nursery in Newcastle upon Tyne during the early 1990s condemns the city council for the slack way it ran the school and monitored its staff.

Parents of at least 27 of the children now plan to bring legal action against the council for negligence.

The inquiry accuses the council of offering "little more than a poor child-minding service" and ignoring the concerns of parents who feared that their children were being abused. Its social services department had a "complacent and insular" attitude.

References were not checked thoroughly, records were either lost or not kept and senior managers at the nursery failed to question why Lillie or Reed removed children for alleged trips. The inquiry heard evidence that the children were taken to Lillie's home and other houses in Newcastle, where they were abused and videoed



Reed, above, and Lillie were sacked by council



for pornographic purposes. Two unidentified members of the council's staff were yesterday suspended pending an internal inquiry.

Reed, now 27, and Lillie, now 34, were cleared of sexually abusing a boy aged four, a boy aged three and a girl of four when they appeared before Newcastle Crown Court

in July 1994. The judge at the trial, Mr Justice Holland, ruled that the video evidence of the four-year-old girl, the oldest of the alleged victims, was inadmissible because of her age. The prosecution then offered no evidence.

Reed and Lillie were sacked for gross misconduct by the city council. They are both believed to still be living on Tyne-side. Reed has since married and Lillie is understood to have changed his name.

In a 350-page report published yesterday, an independent team headed by Richard Barker, head of the Division of Child Family Studies at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, found that more than 1,400 children came into contact with the two during their time at the nursery.

The team concludes that Lillie "took every opportunity to abuse the children" and that Reed "was party to it". The report adds: "As well as Christopher Lillie and Dawn Reed, it is clear that others outside the nursery were involved in abusing children for their own gratification and probably also for the production of pornographic material. These people have never been found."

The review, which has taken four years to complete, was launched after the court case



At a press conference unveiling the report yesterday, Newcastle council was criticised for its complacent attitude

collapsed four years ago. It says that there was confusion over Lillie's qualifications and doubts about his referees, but no police checks were made about either's background. Lillie had been the probable victim of abuse when he was in care as a child.

It accuses Newcastle social services of "lamentable" management of its nurseries. The report also concludes that the nursery was run for the convenience of the staff and not the children. Staff failed to recognise the distress among

the abused children, and that there was a failure to recognise the high number of so-called "accidents" that took place under the care of the abusers. One accident report book covering the period immediately before the abuse came to light has disappeared.

The team say that the four managers at Shieldfield, Peter Blythe, Joyce Eynington, Susan Eynington and Audrey Palmer, "must take some responsibility". The report adds: "Children's problems, even ones clearly indicative of sexu-

al abuse, were generally blamed on their families which resulted in abuse by nursery staff being undetected for longer than should have been the case and for some parents being inappropriately suspected of abuse.

"Staff were poorly trained in the nursery in relation to child protection and there appear to be no records kept of which staff had received training." The nursery had been "a vulnerable environment which Reed and Lillie had manipulated for their own purposes".

Tony Flynn, the leader of Newcastle council, said last night: "We have written to all concerned offering them the facility of our careline for support and advice and this is open to any parent or carer involved. There are lessons to be learnt by everyone concerned with child protection."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that it had asked Newcastle City Council to provide it with an action plan detailing how it intended to respond to the inquiry's 75 recommendations.

## 'The wonderful years of his growing up have been stolen'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE mother of a boy said to have been abused at the Shieldfield nursery said yesterday that she had been robbed of his years as a child.

He had started at the nursery in 1991 aged 18 months while his mother, a single parent now-45, was at work. Today he is in a special school after developing behavioural problems, which his mother blames on the abuse he suffered.

"He talks about sex in the way you might expect a teenager to talk," she said. "He wants to touch me" and his

grown-up sister and makes comments about our bodies. I am afraid to cuddle him for what he might do. We cannot go out socially.

"He was my little baby, I have had those wonderful years of his growing up taken away from me."

The mother said: "I believed my little boy was being looked after, but I began to be worried when he would come home in girl's clothing. When I asked why I was fobbed off with a story that he had wet himself or spit food, but his clothes were never returned."

"One day when I went in to the nursery they were chang-



The Shieldfield nursery: the inquiry report described it as a vulnerable environment

ing his nappy. When I went into the room there was a panic and they tried to order me out, but I refused to go and I watched them carefully. They all looked very flustered.

"I cannot believe that no

one acted sooner. My son's life has been ruined. We live day by day. He sees a psychologist for five minutes every three months but that is not enough."

Another woman, aged 43,

whose daughter was two when she was abused, said: "I will never understand as long as I live how these two people could get away with this type of abuse. When we visited the nursery we saw what we

thought was a safe and well-run establishment."

The girl's father, 44, said: "Our daughter will be eight on Saturday and, although this happened nearly six years ago, we are still feeling it."

The mother whose small son was the first to talk about what was happening also spoke. Her child was two years and five months when he started at the nursery and suffered abuse for 11 months before it was uncovered.

The mother, 50, said: "My son is a very bright little boy. He was screaming at night, he became aggressive, even towards me and some nights he

would not even come into our own house after leaving nursery. He kept talking about having another mammy and kept wanting to know if I was his real mammy."

"Thankfully I picked up on certain things that he said. At last he told me they were hurting his bottom. Over the next few weeks I found out more and more from him."

"He had been carted around the homes of other perverts. Reed and Lillie were not the only people to abuse him. He spoke of a man in a wheelchair and another person he referred to as 'just a daft man'."

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# A history of Britain in 48 stamps

Monarchy is ignored in a new issue marking achievements of past 1,000 years, reports Mark Henderson

A DALEK, a tattooed Maori, a potato and Freddie Mercury have been chosen ahead of kings, queens, poets and painters to mark 1,000 years of British history in the Royal Mail's millennium stamp collection.

The series launched yesterday is devoted to celebrating Britain's achievements, and is the biggest collection ever released in this country. It comprises 12 sets totalling 48 stamps, each on a different theme. Each stamp will be designed by one of Britain's foremost artists, such as Antony Gormley, David Hockney and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. Damien Hirst was invited to take part but turned the offer down because he was too busy.

The subjects, however, chosen by Jeremy Black, Professor of History at the University of Exeter, are bound to cause controversy. Royalty has been almost completely ignored, and there are few traditional "great men".

Robert Bruce is the only King to get a stamp in his own right. James I gets in via the

Authorised Version of the Bible but there is no place for Alfred, Elizabeth I or Victoria. Generals, politicians and artists and writers also fare badly — Gladstone, Churchill, Wellington, Turner and Dickens all miss out.

Science and technology, by contrast, is well represented. At least 20 of the stamps could be said to have a scientific theme, and individuals such as Darwin, Newton, Brunel, Turing and Edward Jenner (the latter drawn by Peter Brookes, the Times cartoonist) are included.

Popular culture shares equal billing with the fine arts. The Entertainers' Tale set, to be issued in June, features the late pop star Freddie Mercury performing at Live Aid, a dalek from *Dr Who*, Charlie Chaplin (drawn by Ralph Steadman) and a depiction of Bobby Moore lifting the World Cup by Mike White, who draws *Roy of the Rovers*.

The Maori appears alongside Captain Cook on a stamp marking the explorer's voyage

es by the artist Andrzej Klimowski, and the potato is an example of new foods on the design by Tessa Traeger.

Peter Jennings, a stamp expert and fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, said he was "bitterly disappointed"



Clockwise from top left: timekeeping, steam power, jet travel, liberation, Cook, transport links, computers and photography

by the artist Andrzej Klimowski, and the potato is an example of new foods on the design by Tessa Traeger.

Peter Jennings, a stamp expert and fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, said he was "bitterly disappointed"

by the Royal Mail's choices. "Major landmarks in British history are notable by their absence," he said. "There is no battle of Hastings or Waterloo, yet there are some extraordinarily obscure things there."

Professor Black said that he

had deliberately avoided too narrow a focus on political and military history. "I know some people will be upset that there is no Waterloo and no Queen Victoria, but we were not trying to present a political narrative," he said. "We have

gone for themes that show the development of Britain and the people who live here, the things that have changed the quality of people's lives."

The stamps will be issued in batches of four every month next year.

**THE MILLENNIUM TALES**

Themes that sum up millennium Britain (artist's name in brackets):

**Timekeeping** (David Gentleman); **steam power** (Peter Howson); **photography** (Zafer and Barbara Baran); **computers** (Alan Turing (Sir Eduardo Paolozzi)).

**Travellers' Tale** (February)

**Jet travel** — Sir Frank Whittle and de Havilland (George Hardie); the bicycle (Sara Fanelli); **locomotion** — Isambard Kingdom Brunel (John Lawrence); **Captain Cook** (Andrzej Klimowski).

**Peacemakers' Tale** (March)

**Vaccination** — Edward Jenner (Peter Brookes); **patient care** — Florence Nightingale (Susan Macfarlane); **penicillin** — Alexander Fleming (Mike Dempsey); **in-vitro fertilisation** (Antony Gormley).

**Settlers' Tale** (April)

**The Normans** (John Byrne); **The Pilgrim Fathers** (Wilson McLean); **emigration and colonisation** (Jeff Fisher); **immigration and Windrush** (Gary Powell).

**Workers' Tale** (May)

**Weaving** (Peter Collingwood); **the mill** (David Hockney); **shipbuilding** (Bill Sanderson); **the City of London** (Brendan Neiland).

**Entertainers' Tale** (June)

**Live Aid** — Freddie Mercury (Peter Blake); **Dr Who** — Daleks (Justin Mortimer); **Bobby Moore** — as Roy of the Rovers (Mike White); **Charlie Chaplin** (Ralph Steadman).

**Citizens' Tale** (July)

**The right to vote** — suffragettes (Natasha Kerr); **the right to health** — sanitation (Michael Craig-Martin); **the right to learn** — Robert Owen (Alan Drummond); **Magna Carta** (Alan Kitching).

**Scientists' Tale** (August)

**DNA** (Mike Curtis); **Darwin** (Ray Harris Ching); **electricity** (Colin Gray); **Newton** (to be confirmed).

**Farmers' Tale** (September)

**Strip farming** (David Tress); **mechanised farming** — Jethro Tull (Christopher Wormell); **new foods** — the potato (Tessa Traeger); **famland by satellite** (Richard Cooke).

**Soldiers' Tale** (October)

**Robert the Bruce** (Andrew Davidson); **the Civil War** (Rod Kelly); **war graves** (Don McCullin); **peacekeeping** (Christopher Carr).

**Churchill's Tale** (November — Christmas Stamps)

**The Ministry** (Craig Aitchison); **John Wesley** (Brody Neuenhswander); **the King James Bible** (Clare Malinsky); **St Andrew's Cathedral** (Catherine Yass).

**Artists' Tale** (December)

**Performing arts** — Shakespeare (Allen Jones); **music** (Bridget Riley); **visual arts** (Howard Hodgkin); **final stamp** (to be confirmed).

## Nurses go nutty for good health

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

EATING plenty of nuts can cut the risk of heart disease, an American study has shown.

Nurses who ate nuts five times a week had a 35 per cent lower risk of heart disease when compared with those who ate them less than once a month.

The data, published in the British Medical Journal, come from a study of 36,000 women, mostly nurses, between 1980 and 1990. Researchers from Harvard School of Public Health followed their health and asked them what they ate.

The beneficial effect of the nuts may come from the unsaturated fats they contain, the team speculates. Alternatively, it may be that nut-eating is a "marker" for a healthy lifestyle that includes exercise and fruit as well as nuts.

The team corrected for these confounding factors as far as they could and found that the beneficial effect of nuts persisted. They conclude that nuts can be considered part of a healthy diet.

In a commentary in the journal, Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, of Dundee University, says the new evidence rehabilitates the nut, often seen as an unhealthy snack food.

## Suicide is linked to birth pain

By Our Science Editor

A PAINFUL birth increases the risk of suicide in adult life, a Swedish study has found.

Two Swedish professors compared the birth experiences of 243 adults who took their own lives by violent means with 403 siblings who did not. In the British Medical Journal they report that a common feature among the suicides was a difficult birth.

That included the use of forceps, the need for resuscitation and breech presentation at birth. The suicides had experienced twice as many interventions at birth as their siblings. They also found that the mothers of babies who subsequently killed themselves had longer labours and fewer painkillers.

Professors Berit Jacobson and Marc Bygdemar believe that a "traumatic birth" imprints a pattern of behaviour in which individuals unconsciously seek a similarly traumatic experience in suicide.

The hypothesis wins little support from Louis Appleby, Professor of Psychiatry at Manchester University, who says in the BMJ that violent suicides are linked with severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and manic depression. A difficult birth is also linked to the same mental disorders, probably as a result of an oxygen shortage at birth.

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Lady Hurd: could not eat, so fasted on recipe books

## Judy Hurd tells how she fought leukaemia

JUDY HURD, the wife of the former Tory Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd of Westwell, has revealed how a diet of cook books and television chefs have helped her fight leukaemia (Mark Ingfield writes).

Because chemotherapy depletes the immune system, her diet was restricted and had to be overcooked to kill bacteria. "Food is full of bugs friendly to the healthy person, but not to those of us languishing in Ward 5E," she writes in this week's *Spectator*.

The restrictions brought on an insatiable interest in cookery. "As many of my fellow patients seemed to lose interest in food, I stubbornly retained it through those four long months of chemotherapy."

She also made a promise to a friend who rang from a Cornish quay to say she was collecting lobsters: "I vowed to be on that quay in summer 1999."

# United we stand, divided we fail, Blair tells Scots

TONY BLAIR last night presented his vision of a Britain united through generations by common values and shared ideals that should not be sacrificed to the "narrow politics of identity" and separatism.

In an emotional speech in Glasgow that marked the launch of Labour's campaign for the Scottish parliament elections in May next year, Mr Blair said the historic solidarity of the British people must triumph over separatism.

During the next six months Britain faced a stark choice between two futures, he said: one that built on the common experiences and sacrifices made by the people of the United Kingdom in which together they were able to defeat fascism, build a welfare state and fight against unemployment; or one in which the Scottish Nationalists were allowed to erect barriers that would make the English-born children of Scots foreigners in Scotland, barriers that would threaten jobs, taxes, schools and hospitals.

Addressing an audience of students and academics at Strathclyde University, he said: "Throughout the next six months there is one argument the Scottish National Party don't want to have. It is an argument about devolution versus separation. But politics is about more than identity, it is also about ideals. That is why

## Ideals must not be sacrificed in election for identity, Labour warns, Shirley English reports

In the coming months we will try to put the case for the politics of social justice to overcome the narrow politics of identity."

He said in this week following Remembrance Sunday every one carried an awareness of history and of "the experiences and institutions that in Britain we share — for we are all united in remembering the great sacrifices that the nations of these islands have together made in times of great peril. We stood together to defeat fascism and we worked together to build a welfare state."

He said: "Throughout this century, in the time when working people earned their living by the skills of their hands and the strength of their back, throughout Britain they were united in their struggle against unemployment. Whether it was the Upper Clyde shipyard workers or the Jarrow marchers, all asserted

the dignity and decency of work. These common bonds and mutual interests endure in a different world today."

New Labour's vision was one "of a country united by common purpose and derived from shared values, that make Scotland stronger with Britain and Britain stronger with Scotland."

Devolution, he said, had safeguarded the distinctiveness and democratic control of Scottish institutions. As a result the Nationalists could no longer argue that Scottish nationhood was under threat. Instead they had been forced to claim that the values of the Scots were so different from the rest of Britain that new barriers should be established.

Mr Blair said his own family history illustrated how integrated Britain was. Born in Scotland, he had lived most of his life in England. His mother was Irish, his father English but both were raised in Scotland. "We are bound together. Why set us apart?"

He said the Nationalists continued to argue that Scottishness was diminished by any connection with the rest of Britain. "While Labour is investing in the NHS, the nationalists would first invest in the apparatus of a national Government," he said.

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 22



Tony Blair speaking at Strathclyde University yesterday

## Time to stop the complaints and step up reforms

Members of Parliament are for ever complaining about a democratic deficit in Europe. But, now, they have a chance to do something about it. The Government yesterday produced a White Paper, *The Scrutiny of European Union Business*, that helps to answer these complaints by improving the way the Commons deals with the EU.

Many key decisions on trade, health and safety and the single market are taken in a complicated triangle of the Commission, ministers and the Strasbourg Parliament. This limits the scope for MPs to intervene. The challenge for national parliaments has been to have their say before proposals are firmed up.

The Commons already has an elaborate machinery for scrutinising new European proposals — matching the broader work of the Lords committees. Unfortunately, this scrutiny has become a ghetto activity, attracting zealots on both sides but ignored by virtually everyone else. The process also has inherent flaws. These are addressed in the new package, brought forward by Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, which broadly reflects the cross-party view set out in three reports by various committees of the House since mid-1996.

The big gap has been intergovernmental co-operation on foreign and security policy and justice and home affairs under the Maastricht treaty. This had not yet been brought fully within the scrutiny system, but will now.

The key point is the government undertaking to Parliament, known as the scrutiny reserve, not to agree to measures in the Council of Ministers before MPs have had an opportunity fully to consider proposals. This will be strengthened to include areas of intergovernmental co-operation as well as Commission Green Papers. Ministers have also promised to improve the flow of information about EU

business. The number of European Standing Committees is to be increased from two to three and their members are likely to be nominated for a whole Parliament rather than just one session. The committees will have a wider remit to consider EU developments.

These changes are desirable but will make little difference unless the Commons makes use of them. MPs are always in favour of reform in general, but seldom do much about it in practice. It is a question of attitude. For instance, the Treasury committee is doing a good job of holding the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England to account and has held some informative hearings on the world economy. Giles Radice, the chairman, took part in an important initiative to link the European Parliament's Monetary Affairs Committee with representatives of national finance and Treasury committees in meetings twice a year to look at the work of the European Central Bank.

In other areas, the pace of reform is disappointingly slow. A sensible package to improve the way legislation is considered was approved more than a year ago, but only a limited amount has been implemented. Some draft Bills have been produced and there has been limited programming of the way that constitutional Bills are considered. Otherwise, little has changed in the way that Bills are examined and debated, in part because a new Government has been keen to press ahead with its heavy legislative programme.

Mrs Beckett is well aware of this and hopes that more reforms will be implemented in the coming session. The Commons is reforming itself, but the pace will have to be stepped up if Westminster is not to be left behind by the far-reaching constitutional changes under way.

PETER RIDDELL

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Treasury committees in meetings twice a year to look at the work of the European Central Bank.

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# DNA test may solve mystery of missing boy

Hair could identify Ben Needham, writes Stewart Tendler

DNA tests were being set up yesterday to establish whether a child seen in Greece is Ben Needham, who vanished there seven years ago.

A hair from the child's head was brought back this summer by a British tourist. John Cookson gave it to the Needham family, but scientists have only now been able to make use of it because of developments in DNA testing in recent months.

Yesterday South Yorkshire Police delivered a hair taken from Christine Needham, Ben's grandmother, to forensic scientists at a laboratory in Wetherby, Yorkshire. Police say that the tests may take some time; they may not confirm whether the boy is Ben, but should make it easier to say if it is not.

Ben was 21 months old when he vanished in July 1991 while playing outside the farmhouse his grandparents were renovating on the island of Kos.

Mr Cookson saw the blond-haired boy playing on a beach at Rhodes, an island about 50 miles from Kos. He took video film of the boy and managed to obtain a single hair. Yesterday he said he was struck by the fact that the child was fair

while his parents and brother were dark-haired. He said the boy was known as "The Blond One" and seemed to act differently.

He said he thought the child lived in a nearby taverna and his brother was 17. Mr Cookson added that he had seen the boy on other visits to the island before deciding to gather evidence.

Yesterday Ben's mother, Kerry, said she had seen the film and understood why Mr

Cookson was struck by the child's appearance. There were similarities, but the boy's mouth was different and his teeth were poor.

Ben's grandfather, Eddie Needham, said the family were trying to remain calm. He said: "There have been other sightings over the years, but it's no longer just a blond-haired boy on a beach. This time we've got something physical which will prove one way or another whether it's Ben." He added: "Looking at the video of this boy, there is certainly a family resemblance, especially about the way his hair grows."

Ms Needham, 26, of Foxhill, Sheffield, said: "The next heartache we face is what to do if it is Ben. He was only a baby when he disappeared, now he will be nine years old. Whoever has got him will have had him a lot longer than I had him. He won't recognise me or know anything about us."

"That is a harrowing decision that we may have to face: whether to leave him with his new family if he is happy and well cared for, or whether to bring him back with us."

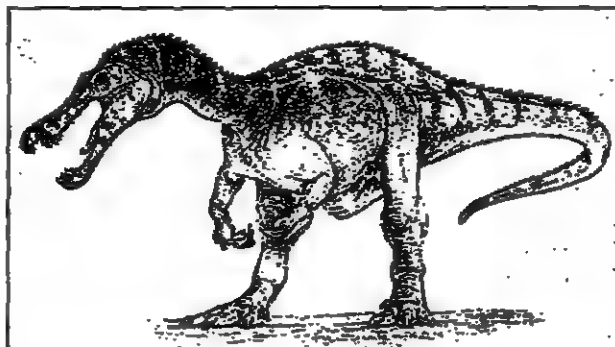
"But I need to know if he is still alive and I will never rest until he is found."



A video still of the blond boy who may be Ben



The University of Chicago team working on the site in the Sahara. In the foreground is a foot-long thumb claw from the skeleton



What *Suchomimus tenerensis* might have looked like

## Desert skeleton forces rethink on crocodiles

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW crocodile-like dinosaur has been found in the deserts of Niger. Nearly 36ft long, the creature had long, narrow jaws filled with cone-shaped teeth, a fin-like tail along its back, and large curved claws.

It belonged to a class of fish-eating dinosaurs called spinosaurs, and lived 100 million years ago. The new species, described in *Science* by a team led by Paul Sereno, of the University of Chicago, has been called *Suchomimus tenerensis* (from the Greek for crocodile, *souchos*, and the Tenere desert).

*Suchomimus* is a close relation

of *Baryonyx walkeri*, one of the most complete dinosaur fossils found in Britain, and now in the Natural History Museum. Its close similarity poses a puzzle for the evolution of the spinosaurs.

Before *Suchomimus* was found, the spinosaurs had probably evolved independently in the northern and southern hemispheres, because the two found in the south were so different from *Baryonyx*, found in a Surrey claypit.

This simple picture will now have to be rethought. The odds are, says Dr Sereno, that spinosaurs first appeared in

the north and then colonised the south across a land bridge that still linked the two halves of the super-continent Pangaea as it began to break up.

*Suchomimus* probably fed on meat as well as fish. The shape of its teeth imply they were better at piercing and grasping than slicing. Other flesh-eating dinosaurs have serrated, blade-like teeth.

Spinosaurs have an unusual history, having been, as Thomas Holtz, of the University of Maryland puts it, "twice lost" — first when they became extinct, and later, when the only known specimen was lost in an air raid on Munich.

## Rare orchids in danger as gardeners are locked out

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

A RARE collection of tiny tropical orchids is at risk of dying from neglect as gardeners at Ireland's botanic gardens have been locked out of work.

The 16 gardeners were suspended without pay four weeks ago, leaving a small group of managers and assistants to care for 20,000 plant species, including what is believed to be Europe's only collection of four delicate orchids discovered in the jungle in Belize.

Brendan Sayers, the orchid

gardeners, said: "I am the person who found them, cared for them, potted them and I know they are in danger. Nobody else knows how much water to give or when to dry them out. They are probably dead and it is very, very distressing."

Mr Sayers uncovered four orchids previously unknown to Belize — *Platyteleia minimiflora*, a 2cm translucent orchid with an orange lip; *Platyteleia stenostachya var lankasteri*, a 3cm translucent plant with a maroon lip; *Pleurothallis peperomioides*, a 2cm orchid with red flowers opening like a bird's beak, and *Campylotricentrum peopigii*, a unusual

root orchid that produces white flowers.

The dispute is over extra money for training student gardeners. The workers were suspended before they planted the garden's 250,000 beds for winter or the daffodils and tulips for next year's spring beds.

Donal Synnott, director of the gardens, insisted that the orchids and other plants were "in good hands and in perfect health". He said: "It's winter time so there is not a lot to do and the curator is perfectly well able to look after the orchids."

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# British bridges to restore links in Honduras

A Reading company is stepping up production to meet demand in the hurricane zone, David Adams writes

IN THE huge reconstruction effort under way in Honduras, it may be a pioneering British bridge-building company that provides a key component to help get the country back to work.

Hundreds of miles of roads and 72 bridges were washed away by torrents of mud and water in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, leaving large parts of the country, including the capital, isolated. Road communications have been partially restored where receding waters have allowed rivers to be forded by heavy vehicles and four-wheel drive cars.

But Honduras has no immediate solution to its bridge problem and is anxiously seeking international help.

"They have asked everybody for Bailey bridges," said a British official, referring to the prefabricated steel structures which were patented in Britain before the Second World War. "We are trying to support that request. We think this can be one of the best ways to channel the aid money coming into Honduras."

A team from Mabey & Johnson, the Reading-based manufacturers of Bailey bridges, has met Honduran officials and representatives from the World Bank and the British Embassy in the hope of reaching a deal to supply its "rapid reaction bridge system".

The company has already instructed its factory in Chesham to increase production in anticipation of large orders. "This country needs a minimum of \$125 million (£78 million) in bridges," said Jonathan Danos, sales director for Latin America. "We believe we have the answer."

The Honduran Government estimates that it needs more than three miles of temporary bridge-building materials in order to restore road communications between its main towns. It has no time to even consider long-term bridge projects.

Bailey bridges, which were widely used in Bosnia to help a war-damaged infrastructure, are suited to an emergency. Invented by Sir Donald Bailey in the late 1930s, they were designed to meet British military

specifications, in that they could be erected quickly, in the dark, by hand and under gunfire.

Made from galvanneal steel, they consist of panels measuring 10ft by 7½ft that slot easily together. They have the added advantage of being easily assembled by military construction brigades that are familiar with the design. Honduras is no stranger itself to Bailey bridges, which were used in 1974 after Hurricane Fifi, the country's last big storm.

Clinging for life: Even as international relief efforts were under way across Central America, several hundred people were still clinging to trees yesterday in flooded areas of Honduras, awaiting rescue.

Some 1,200 people along the remote Mosquito Coast of Honduras were still cut off by floods. Anibal Delgado of the National Agrarian Institute, said. Among the people awaiting rescue, several hundred were perched on tree tops to save themselves from the floods, he said, adding that rain and fog had stopped helicopters from reaching the area. (AFP)



A guard watches over a bus swept away by floods on the Choluteca river in Honduras

## Monks let women see Goya frescoes

Madrid: For the first time in more than two centuries women have been allowed to view a series of seven frescoes painted by Goya in the closed Carthusian monastery of Aula Dei in Zaragoza, eastern Spain (Giles Tremlett writes). There were feminist demonstrations outside the monastery last year after the monks refused to lift the rule forbidding women from entering their spiritual sanctuary. A tunnel has now been constructed so that women can enter the frescoes room without walking through the monastery. Queen Sofia led a group of 500 women to see the works restored with public money.

## Nuclear plant fears

Paris: Greenpeace, the environmental watchdog, claimed that the French nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague was emitting "worrisome" levels of radioactive carbon. The group said an analysis of grass and leaves surrounding the plant showed concentrations of carbon-14 that are two to seven times greater than normal levels, adding: "It is clear that the entire area surrounding La Hague, especially the part downwind from the plant, is seriously contaminated." (AP)

## OJ in TV custody plea

Los Angeles: Facing a custody battle for his children, O.J. Simpson telephoned a television news station and pleaded his case for an hour on the airwaves (Giles Whinnell writes). He insisted in the impromptu interview that he was a good father who did not kill his wife and deserved to be left alone with his children. When asked why his blood was found by the murdered bodies of their mother and a friend he hung up.

## Cod and ships

Oslo: The Norwegian Navy's submarine corps has run into an unexpected problem — lovesick fish. Teeming schools of passionate cod, in the midst of a frenzied mating season, make so much noise that the submarines' sonar cannot hear anything else, making it almost impossible to navigate in the waters of the Norwegian Sea, according to a defence study. The cod grunt repeatedly to attract potential mates. (AP)

## Prescott's global warning

Buenos Aires: The death and destruction of Hurricane Mitch, the forest fires in Indonesia and the floods in China are warnings "the world ignores at its peril", John Prescott said yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

As global climate talks to Argentina move into the final phase, the Deputy Prime Minister told ministers and officials from 169 countries that "sympathy alone will not prevent such tragedies in the future".

In a veiled attack on some sections of United States industry, lobbying hard to stall any deal here, he said: "Let us hear no more doubts about the science of climate change, especially when those doubts are an excuse for inaction."

In an historic deal a year ago in Japan, industrialised nations agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Buenos Aires, they are trying to agree how these cuts are to be made.

## Briton is kidnapped in Nigeria

A BRITON was among seven people kidnapped by militant Nigerian youths from an oil rig in the delta region, as a shutdown in the flow of oil from foreign-owned units entered its 38th day (Michael Binyon writes).

The seven foreign nationals also included a Croatian, an Italian, a South African and three Americans. They were kidnapped on Wednesday, together with a Nigerian, while working for Texaco and other Western oil companies operating on a Texaco-owned offshore rig in Bayelsa state.

The Briton's name has not been released. The Foreign Office said it was following up the reports and had offered consular help. But in many kidnapping cases, foreign oil companies free the hostages by swift payment of a ransom.

There has been an upsurge of violence in the delta as youths have gone on the rampage, demanding a clean-up of the environment and more spending and social amenities in the oil-producing region.

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# More than 80 hurt in Jakarta student riots

BY PATRICIA NOONAN  
IN JAKARTA  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VIOLENCE broke out in the Indonesian capital for a second day yesterday as the military fired teargas, water cannon and blanks in an effort to prevent thousands of student demonstrators from marching on parliament.

Some reports said that as many as 83 people had been injured, 15 of them critically.

Soldiers dressed in riot gear also fired rubber bullets and used bamboo canes to beat students protesting against the holding of a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). Troops fired over the heads of students leading similar demonstrations on Wednesday. They beat three Indonesian journalists and a student protester.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators braved torrential rain

late into the evening in a tense stand-off with hundreds of soldiers at two locations in Jakarta. The students — dressed in yellow and blue university jackets — locked arms, sang songs and chanted slogans less than a yard from the military line-up.

The MPR, Indonesia's highest legislative body, is meeting to pass legislation on political structures ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections next year.

It is the first time that the 1,000-member body has met since it re-elected former President Suharto to his seventh consecutive five-year term last May. Mr Suharto was forced to resign two months later when anti-government protests degenerated into riots that left more than 1,200 people dead.

But student protesters and opposition leaders say that because the Assembly is made

up of delegates left over from the Suharto regime, it is not a valid forum to discuss political reform.

They also want President Habibie, who was the Vice-President under Mr Suharto, to step down.

"Habibie is the product of the Suharto regime. We know that Habibie is no good. The students are the voice of the people," said one protester.

Amien Rais, the opposition party leader — who led dozens of rallies that helped bring down Mr Suharto — said he wanted to wait until the end of the MPR session today before deciding if he will encourage his supporters to join the demonstrations to put "pressure" on the Government.

"Whether by sending people in the streets or meeting face to face with the leaders of the MPR, or by doing something else, I do not know yet," Mr Rais said.

General Wiranto, the head of the Indonesian Armed Forces, promised that soldiers involved in Wednesday's beatings of journalists and demonstrators would be punished.

The MPR agenda yesterday included limiting the President to two terms and investigating the personal wealth of Mr Suharto and his family.

Students also want the military kicked out of parliament, where it holds 75 seats.

The Assembly has decided to work towards phasing out the military from parliament over five years, a ruling party faction leader said.



Protesters flee as a riot policeman fires his gun while guarding an injured comrade in Jakarta yesterday

## Settler plan by Israel 'flouts accord'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

LESS than 24 hours after the Cabinet ratified the new peace deal with the Palestinians, Israel yesterday published delayed tenders for building more than 1,000 homes for Jews at the disputed settlement site of Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem.

The move prompted a furious reaction from Palestinians who said it violated the peace accords and demanded that the US, which brokered last month's hard-won Wye deal, should once again intervene.

Hassan Asfour, a leading Palestinian negotiator, said it showed that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was more interested in placating Jewish settlers and hardliners opposed to trading land for peace than pursuing his new obligations under the Wye accord.

"If the Israeli side continues in this way, it means that they want to lead the relationship with the Palestinians to confrontation," he added.

It was Mr Netanyahu's decision to send bulldozers to begin building the infrastructure at Har Homa that triggered the 19-month halt in peace negotiations ended by the agreement at Wye.

Last night there were signs that even some on the Israeli Right opposed the move. Zvi Hendel, one of a number of Knesset members from the National Religious Party, claimed it was "a bid to appease the Right that would not succeed".

Mr Hendel is one of a number of the Prime Minister's former backers who have vowed to overthrow him because of the Wye agreement.

Ehud Barak, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said publishing the tender at such a delicate moment was "nothing more than political compensation for those on the Right who oppose the Wye deal".

Mr Netanyahu has consistently argued that, as Har Homa is part of Jerusalem, claimed as Israel's "eternal and indivisible" capital, it is not a new Jewish settlement, but merely a new building scheme needed to house a population overflow.

Criticism of the Har Homa scheme by Robin Cook, Britain's Foreign Secretary, led to his first official visit to the country ending in a diplomatic furore.



Cheung Tze-keung, the Hong Kong gangster sentenced to death in south China

## Beijing sentences gangsters from Hong Kong to death

FROM JILL MCGIVERING IN HONG KONG

A HONG KONG gang leader and four associates have been sentenced to death by a court in Canton, south China.

Cheung Tze-keung, known as Big Spender because of his fast cars and gambling, was convicted of armed robbery, smuggling explosives and kidnapping, including the abduction of the son of Li Ka-shing, a Hong Kong property billionaire. Almost 30 other gang members, also found guilty, were jailed.

The verdict has raised concern in Hong Kong about the independence of its legal system now that the territory is

part of China. Although they were caught on the mainland, many of the suspects were Hong Kong residents and most of their crimes were committed in the former colony.

Despite pleas from relatives, the Hong Kong Government refused to ask the mainland for the return of the men for trial in the territory, where the legal system is more transparent and where they would not face the death penalty.

Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive, defended the decision, saying the suspects had also violated Chinese laws and that the ter-

ritory must respect China's legal procedures.

But Ivan Tang, a defence lawyer, called it the death of the one-country, two-systems formula — the guarantee of autonomy given when Hong Kong was returned to China last year. He attacked the Hong Kong Government for failing to monitor the trial closely and said he would call on the British Government for help in his battle to bring the trial to Hong Kong.

Pressure is growing for the territory to have a formal arrangement with Beijing for the return of suspects.

## Brittan in plea to stop stalling on euro

FROM CHARLES BRENNES  
IN BRUSSELS

THE British Government should stop wavering over entry to the European single currency and immediately start preparing the country for the euro, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the EU Commission, will say today.

Brittan had wasted a valuable opportunity to shape the future of monetary union and Tony Blair's Government, although favourable towards the euro, could not stand aside and "expect others to do its spade work for it", according to the former Tory Cabinet minister and strong supporter of British euro membership.

Ministers had given conflicting signals over the past week on when or if Britain joined the currency. "This is senseless political zig-zagging which neither clarifies the Government's own position nor helps to encourage a bolder or more forward-looking approach," Sir Leon will tell an audience in Leeds. "The time for leadership is now. Further delay will neither make the Government's own job any easier, nor would it serve the best interests of the country."

Sir Leon, who is to retire from the Commission at the end of next year, has been waging an increasingly outspoken campaign to alert the British political world to what he sees as the folly of Britain staying outside a project that will bring substantial economic gain to Europe.

Santer successor: Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's powerful new Finance Minister, was at the centre of a flurry of reports yesterday of a Franco-German manoeuvre to put a German at the head of the European Commission and a Frenchman in a powerful new post as the EU's "foreign minister".

The office of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, denied German media reports that Bonn was lobbying for Herr Lafontaine, who is also president of the Social Democrat Party, to succeed Jacques Santer as head of the Commission when his term ends in December next year.

Herr Lafontaine himself joked: "Rumours are always rumours. In fact, I'm interested in the Pope's job." Diplomats suggested the German flurry, started by a report in *Die Zeit*, was an attempt by Herr Schröder's camp to undermine his leading rival.

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## Poppy tribute in Spain for 'man who never was'

FROM GILES TREMLETT  
IN MADRID

FOR the first time since his death, poppies were yesterday lying at the foot of a gravestone bearing the real name of one of the Second World War's most mysterious heroes, popularly known as "The Man Who Never Was".

The poppies were lying in the Cemetery of Solitude in Huelva, southwest Spain, by the stone that now bears the name of Glendwyer Michael, a Welsh down-and-out whose body was used in one of the war's most brilliant espionage operations. His name was added

to the stone earlier this year after declassified war documents divulged the identity of a man German agents believed to be a drowned Royal Marines intelligence officer named Major William Martin.

False papers placed on his body fooled Hitler into thinking that the Allies would not invade Sicily in July 1943.

For 40 years the gravestone in Huelva has borne William Martin's name. Now the inscription reads: "Glendwyer Michael, served as Major William Martin RM."

Isabel Naylor, an English woman in

Huelva whose family has tended the grave for the past 40 years, laid paper poppies and red carnations in memory of the man whose body was dumped off the Spanish coast by a Royal Navy submarine in April 1943.

Glendwyer Michael was chosen for his mission after he ate rat poison and died, aged 34, of a liver complaint in a London hospital. The cause of death was considered sufficiently similar to drowning to fool German spies operating in southern Spain.

His body was dressed in the uniform of a Royal Marines major and a briefcase full of false documents was

chained to his wrist. Personal photographs and letters were also added.

The documents quickly found their way into the hands of German agents who believed "Major Martin" had drowned after his aircraft crashed off Spain while returning from North Africa. The documents eventually convinced Hitler to move troops from eastern Sicily to Sardinia.

Churchill was so proud of the operation, codenamed "Mincemeat", that he personally broke an embargo on secret information so the story could be made public. It was turned into the film *The Man Who Never Was* in 1955.

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# UN spies losing battle with Baghdad



Ritter: inspection tactics undermined by US

**Weapons inspectors uncovered much of Saddam's arsenal but now have little power, writes James Bone in New York**

THE United Nations Special Commission was once a swashbuckling band of former soldiers, spies and scientists whose cloak-and-dagger tactics unearthed the most fearsome secrets of Iraq's arsenal of mass destruction. Those heady days, however, are long gone.

For months, and some would say years, this unprecedented UN spy agency has been eaten away by a what may be a terminal disease. With all its staff now evacuated

from Baghdad, a bombing raid on Iraq could spell its imminent demise. The only consolation for supporters such as Britain and the United States is that nobody imagined the agency would last so long.

Established by the UN's ceasefire resolution at the end of the Gulf War in 1991, Unscorm was meant to complete its main business in about three months. The resolution required Iraq to declare all its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons,

and the missiles to deliver them, in just 15 days. Baghdad was meant to surrender them within 90 days.

Although multinational in character, the key posts went to the coalition leaders, the British and Americans, or to personnel from other countries that they trusted. The first Unscorm chairman was Swedish and the current head is Australian, but an American always served as the second-in-command.

The UN likes to boast that its inspections destroyed many times more Iraqi weaponry than the thousands of bombing sorties flown during the Gulf War. Its accomplishments are indeed remarkable: the inspectors found the 150ft "Supergun" built, with British parts, up a hill-

side in the Iraqi desert, pointing at Tel Aviv. They destroyed about 40,000 chemical weapons at an incinerator at Iraq's main chemical weapons installation, Muthanna. They have dismantled Iraq's nuclear weapons programme, and accounted for 817 of Iraq's 819 Scud missiles.

Nevertheless, much business remains undone. Unscorm's discoveries forced Baghdad into admitting that it had produced enough biological agent to kill the whole population of the world four times over. But Unscorm has never found any biological weaponry intact, even though it suspects that Saddam still has a biological arsenal.

By 1994, the commission had ap-

peared to run aground in the face of Iraqi intransigence. But the injection of intelligence from Israel gave the inspectors a second wind.

By early 1996, however, Iraq was again blocking the biological investigation and Unscorm's attention turned to the "concealment inspections" devised by a former US Marine intelligence officer, Scott Ritter.

Mr Ritter's inspections proved predictably provocative. Iraq pressured Rolf Ekeus, then head of Unscorm, to agree to ground rules for access to sites deemed "sensitive" by Iraq. When the inspections continued, Iraq balked. In October 1997 it expelled American UN inspectors.

Although Mr Ritter was determined to continue, the United States

pulled the rug out from under his feet. On at least six occasions, from last November, Washington intervened to block a Ritter inspection or as not to provoke a new stand-off.

The deal negotiated by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, in February, placed fresh restrictions on inspections of eight presidential sites. Even so, Mr Ritter travelled to Baghdad in August, ostensibly part of an Unscorm negotiating team, with secret orders to mount two surprise inspections.

Sandy Berger, the US National Security Adviser, saw Mr Ritter in Baghdad on CNN and demanded that he be confined immediately to UN premises. On his return home, Mr Ritter resigned.

## US abandons strategy of surgical strikes

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Pentagon has drawn up a list of 250 targets in Iraq for military strikes, including facilities considered to be crucial to President Saddam Hussein's survival as leader.

The comprehensive content of the target plan underlines the switch in strategy that Washington has now adopted. President Clinton and his security advisers are clearly convinced that Tomahawk cruise missile raids are not enough to bring the Iraqi leader to heel.

The build-up of forces in the Gulf region, the dispatching of B52s to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia and the readiness of the B2 stealth bombers at their base in Missouri to participate in an air campaign have given the clearest signal to Baghdad that this time the raids will be punitive and on a large scale.

There were signs yesterday of Republican Guard units dispersing from their barracks, indicating that Saddam is taking seriously the warnings from Mr Clinton of airstrikes unless he backs down soon.

However, the United States and Britain, Washington's principal supporters, will have to ensure that the air raids do not cause extensive collateral damage for fear of providing Saddam with propaganda material. If American and British

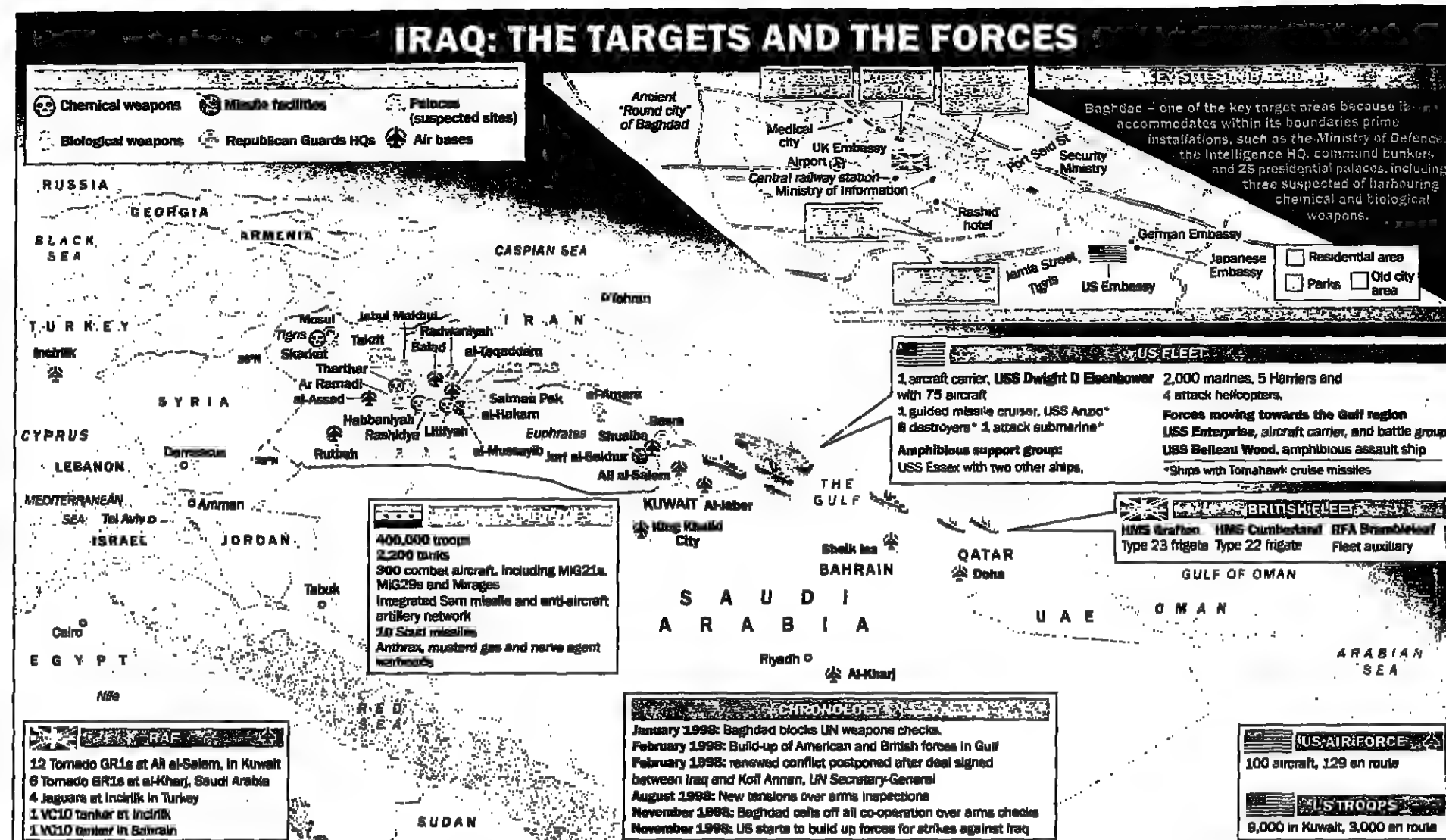
bombs and missiles cause civilian deaths, the purpose of the airstrikes will be undermined and Saddam will gain sympathy from the Arab world.

Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group said: "At the moment the Gulf states are on board but a lot of collateral damage could make it difficult for them to maintain their support for Washington."

Some of the expected targets on the list are in residential areas where even precision-guided bombs could easily miss their mark and cause civilian casualties.

These targets include the Special Security Service headquarters in Palestine Street in Baghdad. The service, which is responsible for protecting Saddam from assassins, also has premises near the al-Rashid hotel in Baghdad where journalists and foreign businessmen usually stay. The rebuilt Ministry of Defence in the capital is also likely to be on the target list.

One of the challenges for American military planners is that many of the suspected biological warfare laboratories are in populated areas and are seemingly medical facilities. United Nations inspectors visited 79 suspected biological weapons production facilities. But some were producing vac-



ines and pharmaceuticals. Others were breweries, distilleries and dairies with equipment that could be used for making biological weapons.

Other likely targets include Republican Guard head-

quarters at Radwaniya, Al-Ramadi and al-Amara and the Special Republican Guard barracks in Tikrit, Saddam's birthplace.

The list of 250 targets is thought to include 45 presidential palaces where it is suspected Saddam is concealing bio-

logical and chemical weapons. His chemical and biological weapons programme — developing and storing anthrax, VX nerve gas, mustard gas, botulinum toxin, sarin nerve agent, "Agent 15" nerve gas and cyanide — is still active. British in-

telligence assessments are that Saddam has "weaponised" some of these chemical and biological warfare agents and has concealed them in small quantities at secret sites around Iraq. The Iraqi leader also has a small number of

Scud missiles hidden in secret locations which could be made operational in a matter of days.

Even a long-running air campaign will never eliminate all the stocks of biological weapons. However, the strate-

gy behind the latest US military planning is to cause massive damage to Iraq's military infrastructure so as to make it difficult for Saddam to mount any form of meaningful retaliation, and to cause lasting damage to his power base.

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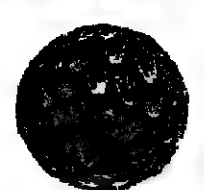
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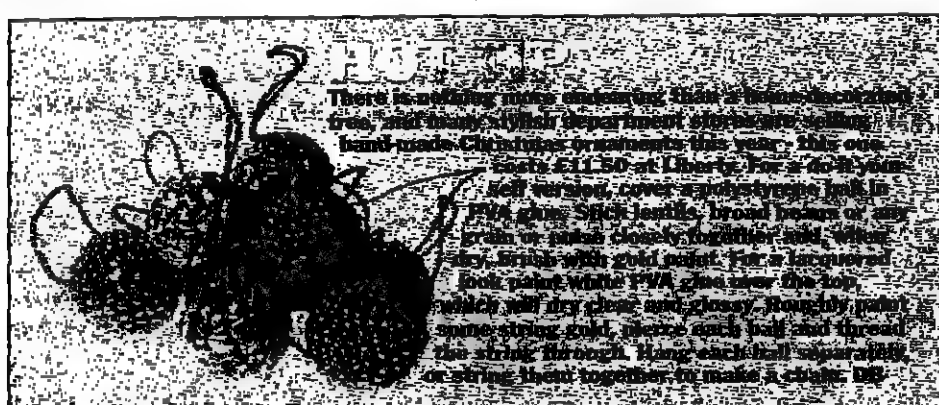


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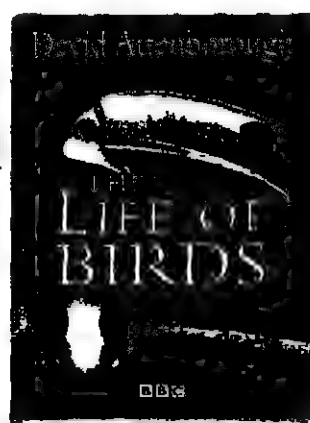
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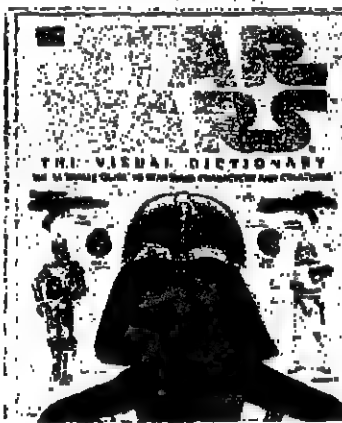


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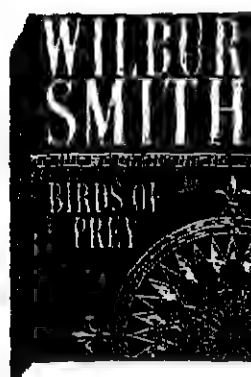
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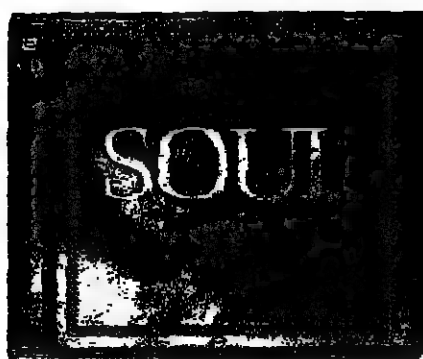
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Christmas comes but once a year and, when it comes, it invariably finds me in a state of hopeless disorder. I don't know how it happens — one minute the interminable Sundays in Trinity are trundling past and the next it is the middle of December, there are ten shopping days until Christmas and I am in a state of simmering panic in which I remain until January 6.

This time, I have sworn to myself that things will be different. Instead of complaining about the wave of commercial ho-ho-ery that begins creeping across the country as soon as the clocks go back — already there are Christmas trees lashed to the façades in Regent Street and outbreaks of seasonal lingerie in the chain stores — I am going to join it. This year, when the moment comes to open the first window of the Advent calendar (which I shall, naturally, have hand-painted myself and mounted in an artistic frame of gold-sprayed fir cones and assorted dried fruit), my forward planning will be formidable enough to make Martha Stewart herself stretch her eyes in admiration.

I shall begin with the Christmas decorations. We are great ones in our family for those special little Christmas traditions. A high point of the celebrations when we were small was the thrilling moment when, standing well back, my sister and I would wait for the cheerful pop and sizzle of ancient wiring as father threw the Bakelite switch on the fairy-lights. And then there were the ornaments. Distressed, I suppose you would call them now — battered angels with tarnished wings, glass birds with needle-sharp spun-glass tails, fragments of which would embed themselves in our little fingers...

Naturally, when my son was born, I did my best to reproduce these unforgettable, childish Christmases. We have an imposing collection of rickety wooden Santas of Eastern European origin, a set of lights whose replacement bulbs I have put in a place so

safe that I cannot recall it, a flock of robins in various stages of mange, and a fairy whose ribald state of dishevelment suggests that she has been at the sloe gin. I am fond of my Hogarthian collection of festive accessories. They have a seedy and mildly villainous presence which acts as a bracing antidote to the general Christmas *Schmerzerei*. Still, I can see that there is some potential for updating, so we set off for the Fulham Road to see what the well-dressed Christmas tree is wearing this year.

At the Conran Shop my son took a fancy to a glass locomotive and carriages, £6. I had been thinking more of Snow Queen ices than the 6.25 to Beckenham, but was deflected from my plans by some papier-mâché animals — little blue

Byzantium range is more dull glow than brash sparkle. Beaded fruit (£7.50 for a set of apple, pear and pomegranate) and gold or silver beaded tassels, £3.95, are especially handsome.

For quirky, shoe-string elegance, Bhs is unexpectedly brilliant, with 9ft garlands of little gold musical instruments or iridescent icicles, £2, gold twig "cages" with a gold ball inside, £2.50, and plump crystal cherubs playing musical instruments, £2. You get a very nice class of cherub at the National Gallery, where a stencil of a Guido Reni *pisto* or a Simon Marton angel is £10, and an Advent calendar by Rosy Stramondo with a cloud of naked *putti* floating about the gallery is £5.

But if the very thought of Christmas makes you want to go and lie down in a darkened room, the answer is probably a visit to Selfridge's Christmas Hall, where, if you want, they will do the whole tree for you. It was strangely quiet when I was there last week. A huge room is filled with about a dozen trees, decorated in every imaginable style, from cheerfully childish, with Santa baubles, £1.49, a glitter star, £4.99, and a stripy tin cat, £2.49, through artless rustic, with feathered robins, 79p, holly-berry baubles, £2.49, and spotty glass toadstools, £2.49, to frightfully tasteful, with garlands of gold pears, £8.99, and Grinling Gibbons gift bows, £2.49, and completely over the top — a battery-powered mirror disco ball is £59.99.

If you are really idle you can buy a ready-decorated tree from about £700, but I spent a happy half hour pottering among the Tiffany-style malachite baubles, the bunches of pink crystal grapes and the real feather pheasants. At the end of it all an engagingly laid-back sales assistant somehow charmed me into wrapping up my own sleigh bells while he got on with reminiscing about his childhood Christmases in Australia. It was the jolliest bit of Christmas shopping I think I've ever done.

## CUTTING EDGE

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## Objects of desire

For children who wish their homework would fly away, the National Gallery's winged rucksack will add some fun to the journey to school. Based on the Wilton Diptych (1395-99), it is suitable for children aged three and over. £20 at The National Gallery Shop (0171-747 2870).



Keep clothes sweet-smelling with Bhs's tiny satin cushions. Tuck them between clothes and the scent, if not the embroidered gold words of Joy, Wish, Calm and Dream, will permeate your wardrobe. £7 for set of four (0171-262 3288), DB

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**MAN ON TOP**  
**JOE JOSEPH**

**S**till keeping up with the daily swim? Yes, that daily swim, the one you promised to take when you realised, as you were floating in the Mediterranean three months ago, (a) what a pleasant way swimming is to exercise; and (b) how, now that your waist extends far enough to shield your shoes from all but the most horizontal rainfall, it might be smart to get trim before you become technically fat (defined as "two stones heavier than whatever you weigh now").

This is why so many of us return from our holiday and immediately join a local gym with a pool. A few of us are so besotted by our new hobby that we even get around to swimming in the pool before our £900 annual membership expires. But the reason that most of us don't is that it dawns on us that spending several hours doing

# Vile bodies at my local swimming pool

breaststroke is not a natural pursuit for human beings.

Swinburne took to the ocean because "the lash and sting" of the sea's surf triggered erotic memories of the floggings he enjoyed at Eton. But other schoolboys have always needed persuading of the charms of swimming. That's why your swimming teacher always had to bribe you by giving you stripes and badges for your mother to sew on to your trunks. You could serve ten aces in a row on the tennis court and they still never gave you a green ribbon to sew on to your shorts. But swim six yards across a pool and the teacher would be straight on the phone organising a congratulatory telegram from Buckingham Palace.

By the time your trunks had more coloured stripes than a Bridge-Riley painting, you could swim as far as you liked, for as long as you cared to. Only there's nowhere to go. You get all the way to one end of the pool and you feel a little foolish, so you just turn around and come back again. You never know when you're finished. It's only when you're eyeing your fellow swimmers on your way back to the changing rooms that you realise what swimming could do for your physique.

You suddenly notice that most people at public pools look so misshapen that aliens would assume that swimming baths were scientific research facilities where biologists experimented with human body forms, many of them based directly on Vanessa Feltz. (Pamela Anderson looked like that in *Baywatch* only because she never actually stepped into the water.) When they tell you that swimming gives you the body of an 18-year-old, what they don't say is that very often it's the body of an 18-year-old Ford Transit.

You also notice that they are all wearing swimming costumes that last fitted them properly in 1982, possibly because in their religion men and women are allowed to buy only one swimming costume once they reach adulthood. These costumes are covered in patterns so searingly lurid that eye-surgeons could use them to perform laser-surgery. ("Stare at these trunks, but for no more than one-quarter of a second. Do you feel a burning sensation on your retina? Good, that should sort out the short-sightedness in your left eye.")

These are people who have tried and failed with known methods of shedding weight and are now dabbling on the fringes of known science: they've tried explaining to their thighs that humans no longer need to store 42lb of fat about their bodies for emergencies, because the corner store is open all the time and all the local restaurants deliver. But their thighs didn't listen. So now they are shamelessly trying to score their fat cells away: they think that by showing them swimwear that looks as if it's been exposed to fierce radioactivity, their fat cells might decamp to somewhere more hospitable, such as one of Marlon Brando's chins.

And even if swimming *does* tighten your belly muscles, it does even spookier things to your brain. Byron liked to swim every day in a stagnant duckpond near Newstead Abbey. But pretty soon he was on to the hard stuff. After leaving a party in Venice, he dived, fully clothed, into the Grand Canal and swam home, holding a torch to warn off passing gondoliers. And on swimming the

Hellespont on May 3, 1810, Byron wrote: "I plume myself on this achievement more than I could possibly do any kind of glory, political, poetical, or rhetorical."

This didn't make much sense to anyone, of course, until Freud came along and told us that swimming basically disguises a human yearning to revisit the amniotic waters of the womb. That might not have put Byron off swimming, but it would have made him think twice about messing with Viennese women, just in case they really do have wombs full of seaweed, with shingle underfoot.

It probably also explains why, when most people hear the call of the sea, the sea says: "Stay on dry land — especially if you're Marlon Brando — because visibility can be poor and you never know when there'll be a Japanese whaler in the area."

# There's no such thing as class

Society jeweller Julia Ogilvy married into the Royal Family. Interview by Moira Petty

**J**ulia Ogilvy sashays through the glittering Edinburgh emporium. She may answer to the lowly title, Mrs, but she is queen of all she surveys within the rooco interior of Hamilton & Inches, Scotland's grandest jeweller. (A 3.10 carat diamond set in platinum ring, £42,900. Pearl and diamond collar, £18,841.)

Mrs Ogilvy is noted for two achievements. First, in July 1988 she married James, son of the Queen's cousin, Princess Alexandra; but mention this and she bristles. Second, already installed as managing director of Hamilton & Inches, she has recently led a management buy-out of former owners Asprey. Mention this and she glows.

Although everything around here has a price tag (enamelled cufflinks, £120. Edwardian gold, amethyst and pearl pendant, £2,150), she discreetly refuses to say how much money changed hands. The management team of four put in some equity and there was finance from The Bank of Scotland. "It was terrifying. But we agreed with Asprey we wouldn't give you any figures," she says primly.

Mrs Ogilvy, 33, is a vision in her grey Tomasz Starzewski suit and LK Bennett sling-backs, a perfect foil for the jewels with which she drips. They cascade from ears, wrist and neck. Her three-string pearl necklace was a 21st birthday present: "Pearls had that funny Sloane Ranger association but now they're seen as chic."

Today she is also twinkling in pearl and diamond earrings and her sapphire and diamond cluster ring ("Diamonds are so simple"); Celtic-looking brooch and ring and several other rings besides, and a charm bracelet to which her husband adds a gold nugget on each

wedding anniversary. Plus she is wearing a Rolex; at home are the Patek Philippe and Tag Heuer models. "I'm a bit of a watch person," she confesses.

Mrs Ogilvy is used to piling on the jewellery. "I buy quite a lot and I borrow things. I get very excited by new designers. If I'm wearing a ballgown I'll borrow one of our £26,000 pearl and diamond chokers. We have lots of parties in the shop and people often want to try on what I am wearing. I end up with no jewellery by the end of the evening."

She had a "wonderful childhood" with her two sisters in Saffron Walden, Essex. "There was no family money. My father worked hard in the City and made money. I was on the front of *Tatler* once as the ultimate Essex girl."

Had she had to overcome any class differences when she married James? He is, after all, within a few dozen places of the throne. "Class? CLASS?" she says, with an incredulous peal of laughter. "Life isn't about class any more. It's not about who you are, but what you put into your life."

"I'm not saying anything about Essex but there's more than one type of Essex, you know. My parents live in a beautiful thatched house in a lovely village."

She is very keen on the concept of luxury. In fact she came up with a great idea for her husband James, who runs his own publishing business from their life farmhouse. To his bi-monthly title, *Ogilvy's Britain and Ireland: The Insider Guide for the Sophisticated Traveller* (typical features: Fabulous Golf and The British Tea), he has added *Luxury Briefing: Your Indispensable Guide to the Luxury Industry*. A top tip from a recent issue: "Pierre Cardin may be a licence-



Julia Ogilvy: "I buy all my underwear from M&S but my mother bates it when I say that. I bought a linen suit there this summer and everyone thought it was Ralph Lauren"

ing success but it's no longer an achiever's choice."

"My husband's happy to give me the credit for coming up with the idea for *Luxury Briefing*," she says. "It's hard to get to all the PR parties, hear all the gossip, so we decided to start this for all the people who work in that business. It is, after all, the same customer who stays at five-star hotels, flies Concorde and buys expensive jewellery."

**M**rs Ogilvy sighs and says: "It's so easy to get out off from the luxury-goods world. We've still got lots of friends who work at places like Louis Vuitton so we like to come down to London and get to some of the parties. The *Carrier* polo is always a wonderful event."

Where, in the classless world she claims to inhabit, does she stay when in London? "With my parents-in-law. At St James's Palace. I feel quite at home there. It's like staying with any in-laws, although they're often at their other place in Richmond," James.

**'James has never done anything wild in his life'**



THE SUNDAY TIMES

# THE RIGHT STUFF, BUT THE WRONG SEX

In the early 1960s when the Americans went boldly into space, they failed to cross the final frontier: accepting that women could be astronauts

The Sunday Times Magazine uncovers Nasa's sexist secret

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# There's no pleasing the Scots

They act like bolshie teenagers, argues Mary Ann Sieghart

Whenever I think about Scotland these days, I am reminded of those Marrakesh "tour guides" who promise to navigate you through the labyrinth of the souk for a fair few dirhams. Eventually you surrender to one, if only to ward off the attentions of his competitors who will continue to besiege you if you walk alone. But, by the end of the day, the previously agreed rate is apparently far too little. Through wheedling, threats and imprecations, the guide secures not only twice the negotiated fee, but a free lunch into the bargain. And, to add to the insult, he departs with a scowl on his face.

That Moroccan experience left me, like many visitors to the city, feeling irritated and bemused. I feel the same way about the ungraciousness of the Scots: and I suspect that Tony Blair, on his Scottish tour this week, does too. Why are they so bad-tempered and churlish now that they have achieved what they have always wanted — and more?

I have always been a passionate supporter of devolution. A year before the general election, I even took time off work here to make a film for the BBC, arguing strongly that Scotland deserved to run its own affairs, that it had been neglected by Westminster — and most crucially — that, far from tearing the UK apart, devolution would keep it together.

The Scottish had two wholly understandable grouses. Why, however strongly they voted Labour, should they always be governed by Conservatives? And why, when they had their own legal system, could they not make their own laws in their own parliament, rather than being ruled by a satrap from Westminster?

The general election solved both problems overnight. At last the whole country voted the same way as Scotland, so the Scots had the party they wanted in Westminster. And then they were offered their own parliament, with more powers even than the version that they so nearly won in 1979. End of problem? Hardly. Barely a day has passed since May 1, 1997, on which Scottish disgruntlement has not been voiced. Yes, they have a Labour Government, but it is the wrong type of Labour Government. Yes, they are to have a parliament, but it will have the wrong powers in the wrong building in the wrong part of Edinburgh.

Every ministerial pronouncement is wilfully misinterpreted to be a slight on the Scottish people, exemplifying the patronising attitudes of the English (and if the minister is Scottish, then he becomes an honorary English villain, an Uncle Tom). Like dealing with an absurdly over-sensitive relative, you have to tiptoe around for fear of giving unintended offence.

When Mr Blair quite innocently said, to justify giving Scotland the tax-raising powers it wanted, that even parish

councils were allowed to levy their own tax, he was merely pointing out the absurdity of Tory propaganda about the "tartan tax". Instantly, this was portrayed as a shocking insult, putting the Scottish parliament on the same level as a parish council. It was no such thing.

Rather like the "passive-aggressive" personality types portrayed by pop psychologists, Scotland seems to have a "superior-inferior" relationship with England. John Smith loved to characterize the Scots, particularly the middle classes, as morally superior to the English because they were more collectivist and altruistic — and, of course, they voted for his party. But they could comfortably vote Labour in Morningside, knowing that enough would vote Tory south of the border to ensure that their taxes would not rise.

Then there is the fabled superiority of Scottish education, a myth that persists despite Scottish schoolchildren routinely scoring the same as English pupils in international comparisons of maths and science skills. Yet public spending per schoolchild is some 30 per cent higher north of the border than south.

Scotland also thinks itself superior in the assertion of its national identity. The English are apparently to be pitied because they have so little sense of their own nationhood. Actually, the English are perfectly happy with their overlapping identities. That they feel little need for national display springs from their inner confidence.

The "inferior" part of the Scottish psyche leads to a maddening chippiness. Even when the Scottish feel superior, it is a superiority that has to be defined against the English. Yet the English are not even competing in the race. If we English measure ourselves against anyone, it is against foreign nations such as France, not Scotland. As far as we are concerned, the nations of the United Kingdom are all on the same side — unless they are playing football or rugby. But even then, most English people, if their own team is not playing, will support any of the other home countries before a foreign team. The Scottish would rather support Germany or Argentina than England.

I must be time for this hostility to end. The Scots are behaving like bolshie adolescents, always discontented, seeing conspiracies where none exists, lashing out at the slightest — or no — provocation. Any kind word or gift is pocketed and the hand held out for more. Generosity is despised.

"Whatever I say to her these days is wrong", Mr Blair faces an audience in Scotland that is determined to be difficult. The Scots have been given the grown-up parliament that they have longed for all their lives. Now it is time for them to grow up too.



FROM THE TWO MINUTES' SILENCE TO THE THREE MINUTE WARNING...

## Get a move on, William

The Tory leader has not got time to make significant errors of judgment, says Michael Gove

Billy Graham once observed that you can achieve almost anything in this life, if you're prepared not to take the credit. Dr Graham is, of course, rather more concerned about the next life than this but he has a point. It is a point which, I imagine, William Hague impressed upon Michael Portillo this week.

The Conservative leader may take his friend's advice seriously, indeed may even be inclined to act upon it, but does not, it seems, take kindly to 1,000 words of wisdom faxed to *The Daily Telegraph's* opinion page. It may then be counter-productive to direct some words to Mr Hague through these columns, doubly so given that the words echo some of Mr Portillo's. But, as the former Defence Secretary once said, he who dares wins, so here goes.

The Tory leader has made two serious personnel errors this week, and is apparently about to make a third. These mistakes reflect more than misjudgments about personalities; they reveal deeper defects in the Tories' political thinking. Mr Hague does not have time to make these errors, for if matters do not improve significantly within 12 months, he may not be around to choose the Tories' personnel. He could face a leadership challenge next November that would leave him, and others who yearn for him to succeed, cursing what might have been.

The first error was the nomination of Sir Alastair Goodlad to succeed Sir Leon Brittan as a European Commissioner. The second was the signal to Jeffrey Archer that the leadership would allow him a clear run at the nomination for London's mayor. The third would be the appointment of Jonathan Holborow as the party's communications chief.

The choice of Sir Alastair, against whom I bear no particular ill-will, was a great opportunity missed. Why nominate a man whose sympathies are so out of tune with Mr Hague's own? Sir Alastair is an Establishment Europhile who is only a nominal supporter of the Shadow Cabinet's anti-euro line. If appointed to Brussels he would as quickly adopt the Commission's line as he did Mr Hague's, and with greater zeal.

The final choice of commissioner is, of course, the Prime Minister's. Mr Hague may have thought that Sir Alastair had more chance of getting Downing Street approval than an

out-and-out Eurosceptic, but why does he want the approval? Why the pre-emptive cringe? Why not nominate a talented administrator with impeccable sceptical credentials like Sir Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Secretary? If Tony Blair rejected him, then so much the better, for it would show the Prime Minister in his true, partisan, and pro-European colours. A chance has been missed to promote a young and talented Eurosceptic, and the face the Tory party has projected is the careworn countenance of a leftover from the Major years.

Which brings one to Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. I do bear him particular ill-will. If he is nominated as the Tory candidate for London's mayor, I would not just spoil my ballot paper, I would make of it a funeral pyre. How anyone who has read Michael Crick's biography of this fantasist could allow him to run a bath, let alone for office, let alone the capital city, is beyond me. But even if

Lord Archer were a byword for probity, he would still deserve to be stopped. The race for the mayoralty is a perfect opportunity for the Tories to show a modern and attractive face. Can they really do no better than this clown who first capered on the national stage beside *The Beatles*? Where are the talented businessmen or the gifted local government figures? Why not find, and ruthlessly promote, a young, professional Eurosceptic woman to show what modern Conservatism should look like?

Whatever modern Conservatism looks like, it doesn't look like Jonathan Holborow. I should bear the former Editor of *The Mail on Sunday* some ill-will. He once turned me down for a job. But he was right to do so, for it was a post for which I was ill-suited by age and temperament. Just as he is ill-suited for the job of Tory communications chief.

On a personal level, he lacks the dynamism, the hunger and the

political zeal required. If he had to take early retirement because the hurry-burry of editing a weekly paper which faced a fading opposition was too much for him, why should he be equipped for the 24-hour-a-day grind of fighting a dominant Government? Mr Portillo, rightly, argued this week that the Tories need to find their voice. Because Mr Blair found his in Alastair Campbell the myth has become established that the Conservatives need a tabloid journalist to project themselves. Such a conclusion shows how the party still misunderstands the reasons for new Labour's success. Alastair Campbell is good not because he was once a journalist, but because he has always been a politician. He served his apprenticeship at *The Mirror* rather than *Millbank* but his genius lies in his strategic grasp of campaigning and his superb instinct for fashioning propaganda. While at *The Daily Mirror* he was not a story-getter in the mould of the *Mail* or *Sun* team. He was a speech-

writer and image-burnisher by appointment to the Kinnock court. His ambition was not to edit a title, or push up circulation but, single-mindedly, to propel Labour into power.

What the Tories require, and urgently, is a strategist who can develop broad themes, and compelling narratives, which tell Britain what the purpose of electing the Conservatives would be. Margaret Thatcher had a story to sustain herself as the woman who would cure the British disease. It would hurt, but God it would hurt, but the pain could be borne because the reason for its infliction was apparent.

The Conservatives need an individual, or a team, who will persuade Britain that it needs less government, and less politics. Their responses on devolution, education, Lords reform and Europe should be connected by a sustained vision of a better future. The Tories enjoy a lead on Europe, but they enjoy it in the way an

absentee landlord enjoyed his Irish acres, happy to contemplate it but showing no energy for developing it.

The Tories do not need so much to harden their opposition to the euro as explain why it springs, naturally, from a broader approach to politics. At the moment the Tory stance on the single currency can be caricatured as obsessive hostility to a single policy. They should explain that the reasons for their opposition — a belief in power being exercised accountably, a distrust of devices that need new rules and new taxes — apply everywhere. The same impulses, they should argue, lead them to favour particular reforms in health, education and local government. They should explain that they care as much about hospitals, schools and councils as the pound, which is why they have ideas to set them free and make them accountable. Only connect.

Mr Hague is cautious about saying too much at this stage. He argues that he wants to present a small target. Well, at just over 30 per cent in the polls the target is too small. The Tories have to start showing now what they could do in power. Unlike other Oppositions, whether in Australia a few years ago or Britain in the late Seventies, the Tories' position is not so sound that the party can afford to mark time.

If, by the time of the next Tory conference, there has not been a significant increase in the party's poll ratings, the cry will go out among twitchy candidates and bewildered activists for a big hitter. And which rough beast, its hour come at last, will slouch towards Blackpool? Ken Clarke. He, and not Michael Portillo, is in a position to challenge for the leadership. He could do so this time next year. His appeal would be simple, a heavyweight who is still popular with the grass roots. His supporters would inquire of Tory sceptics whether they would rather try to influence a Europhile from their own party in No 10 or rage against a Labour one. Mr Hague should learn another lesson from Billy Graham, and start evangelising with as much energy, and detail, as he can. Otherwise he may find there will be someone else taking the credit when this Government falters.

Simon Jenkins returns next week.

Philip Howard



Lost and floundering in the English language

The menu for room service at the Laleh International Hotel, Tehran, offers "Fish Cheeps", "Scram Bled Eggs" and "Portass Steak". That is not globe-trotting gastronomy from the horse's mouth. The menu was sent to me by a Scottish friend. And it illustrates an English joke as old as Shakespeare and Chaucer: the funny way that foreigners have with the funny English language.

We call such mistakes solecisms. And that itself is a strange word. In the 7th century BC Greeks from Rhodes founded a colony at Soli, at the southern tip of what is now Turkey. This was beyond the black stump and up Tombstone Gulch, at the farthest end of the civilised world. To the south and east lay Injun country swarming with Phoenixians, Persians and other barbarians. Not surprisingly the colonists developed a frontier dialect that Athenian purists considered barbarous. So they invented the slang *soloiokos* to mean speaking uncouthly.

Not many stones remain of Soli. But its name lives on, in modern European languages, as an insult and a reminder of the way its citizens "ruined" Greek. A classic example is Pedro Carriolito. In 1883 he published an English-Portuguese phrasebook in spite of having little or no command of English and no Portuguese-English dictionary. He worked with Portuguese-French and French-English dictionaries. And through their double translation produced phrases for Portuguese holidaymakers: "Dress your hairs: Undress you to; She make the prude; And He has lost his all good."

Familiar dialogues. "For to ride a horse", begins: "Here is a horse who have had looks. Give me another. I will not that. He not tall know to march. He is pursy, he is floundered. Don't you are ashamed to give me a jade as like? He is unshod, he is with nails up." "Idiotisms and proverbs" include: "The stone as roll not heap up not foam, and The dog that bark not bite." There is poetry as well as power in the solecism. Pedro gave us memorable advice on. "To craunch a marmoset". At the World Climate Conference in Buenos Aires yesterday John Prescott showed how one of the most powerful public speakers in English has built his reputation on solecism.

"Don't you know the Queen's English?" Of course I do, and so is the Deputy Prime Minister. Cultural and linguistic differences mean that people generally do not find a joke in a foreign language funny. But some jokes are universal. And one is about the long-gone inhabitants of Soli. They were one of the first social and regional groups to be stereotyped as stupid.

In England the Irish joke has replaced the Soliokos. "There was this Irishman..." is an introduction signalling something stupid to be said or done. This is odd, considering the brilliant contributions of the Irish to English literature. But the Irish are people to whom God has been kind, but nobody else is, not even the Irish. And most civilisations have their target for Soli jokes. Dubliners make such jokes about people from Cork. And in Cork, the targets for the silly-ass joke are the people from Galway.

In Europe the butts of a joke are usually people living to the west. In Soli, they were barbarians to the east. In Tonga, such jokes are made about people from an island called Ena. Central African tribes refer to pygmies in this way. And the same joke turns up in many languages. Have you heard the one about the Sareebi boy who ran after a bus all the way home? Then he boasts to his mother that he has saved 20p. She tells him an ejit, saying that if he had chased a taxi, he would have saved £1. The original joke was told in Arabic, and the monetary units were Jordanian. But it was probably told 25 centuries ago by patronising Athenians about the boy from Soli chasing a Cilician camel train.

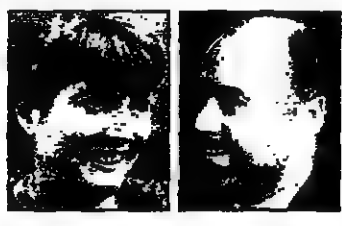
Verbatim, the language quarter, is to be revived. And its first issue contains a new crop of solecisms from "floundering fathers" to "all my bored days..." Which of us manages to pass a day without committing a solecism? Possibly Conrad Russell and Tony Quinton? The rest of us must sit back and enjoy the ancient linguistic bloopers from Soli.

## Nanny's fate

HARRIET HARMAN'S nanny is taking the former Cabinet minister to an employment tribunal. And the union boss who is charged with fighting the toiler's case? One Jack Dromey, alias Mr Harriet Harman, Liz Bannister, who after looking after the Harman sprogs took over her constituency office, was off-loaded when Ms Harman was sacked by Tony Blair; and she feels this was a shade unjust. Ms Bannister is backed by the T&G, whose big player is Ms Harman's husband. Ms Bannister worked for the Harmanians (pictured) for about eight years, ending up in the then Social Security Secretary's political office. While T&G HQ was unusually shy about a tribunal case, Siobhan Wilson, its branch secretary in the Commons, was more forthcoming.

"There has been no settlement," she tells me. "It is all a matter of due process. There has only ever been one case of an MP being brought to an industrial tribunal. Usually these grievances are settled before it reaches that stage."

Ms Harman tells me that she had to let Ms Bannister go because she had to cut the number of slaves in her office after her demotion. "I had to reorganise my parliamentary office to include a researcher with specific expertise," she tells me. "I had to make Liz redundant to recruit somebody with the expertise I needed. I am going to compensate her for the

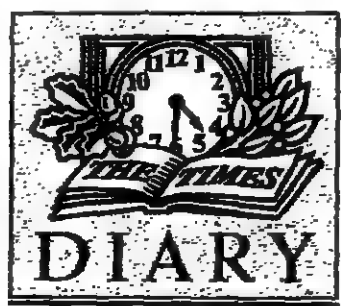


loss of her job." I hope M'learned friends find her offer sufficient.

● **PATRIOTISM**, Labour style. A Labour whip was in the tea rooms scooping up a handful of poppies, handing them round with orders to wear them in the chamber. And no contribution was put in the box.

### Cash convert

THAT collapsed Roman Catholic, Catherine Cookson, was lured



back to Rome only months before she died. The prelate who achieved this conversion was Father Tom Power, now retired in Ireland; and he, lucky chap, has received the unexpected boon of 10,000 big ones from the late author in her will. "It is a very private thing between Catherine and I," he says. "It is the Lord's work."

● **NOT** only is Quentin Crisp out but now he is online. At 90, he is launching his own website ([www.quentincrip.com](http://www.quentincrip.com)), for merdy flowerers from his garret in Manhattan. Ron Davies and other confused sorts can e-mail him; prizes to his wildest correspondent.

### Slim pickings

TOMMY GRAHAM, the larger than lunch suspended Labour MP,

has had his role slimmed down. Despite bringing a wealth of experience to the table, the Scottish trencher fiend has been removed from the House of Commons catering committee after falling out with Tony Blair.

Lindsay Hoyle, MP, denied Graham had been ousted because of his keen interest in the committee's work. "Just because he is a large chap, I don't think that was grounds for him being removed."

### Making up

WAGNER atones, courtesy of the Saatchi brothers. Gottfried Wagner, great-grandson of the great composer, has finally been rewarded for ousting his family as enthusiastic right-wing types. The Saatchi synagogue has invited Herr Wagner to speak, after he published a book last year ousting his grandmother as a close mucker of Hitler's. These gatherings are



set to become the focal point for the North London Volvo, shiraz and Waitrose crowd. Harrison Ford and Yitzhak Shamir, the former Israeli leader, will follow, but only after Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Ken Livingstone slog it out with, well, bagels at ten paces.

### Video naughty

BROADENING the readership, *Church Times* style. Last week's edition included a supplement peddling a video club. Not a problem, one would think, but for the fact that one of the videos in the pamphlet — represented by an

enticing picture — was that invigorating oeuvre *Emmanuelle* (above). Not all clerics enjoyed the improvements. As one on the paper said: "Readers get stroppy about all kinds of things."

● **CHARLIE WHELAN's** life is so frenetic he has bought a second mobile phone. Gordon Brown's big spin-doctor, bon viveur and personal Red Lion, has bought a "world phone" (German naturally) to go with his domestic model. This follows a recent telephone bill, which admittedly included a trip to China, of £7,000. Heavy spin.

JASPER GERARD















THE WOODLEY



# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

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## BT chief says Brown's figures 'too optimistic'

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

BRITISH TELECOM said yesterday that it was preparing for a slowdown in the economy and suggested that Gordon Brown's forecasts for GDP growth were too optimistic.

Sir Peter Bonfield, the BT chief executive, said: "We are expecting a slowdown. We don't think it is going to be a bloodbath. We are prepared for a slowdown but what we see is a slowdown in growth, not an absolute reduction."

Robert Braze, finance director, said the Chancellor's estimates for growth of 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent were "too optimistic". The reality, he said, was likely to be in the 0 to 1 per cent range.

BT reported pre-tax profits of £1.87 billion for the second quarter to September 30. These included exceptional income of £1.07 billion, largely reflecting the profit of more than £1.1 billion from the sale



Sir Peter Bonfield predicts a slowdown in growth, but rules out an economic bloodbath

## ICI emerges as potential buyer in Zeneca deal

By Paul Durman

ICI has declared itself a potential buyer of the specialty chemicals division put up for sale yesterday by Zeneca — a deal that would reunite the business with its former owner.

The business of Zeneca Specialties was part of ICI until 1993, when it was demerged along with the pharmaceutical and agrochemical operations that together form Zeneca.

Now five times more valuable than ICI, Zeneca wants to take advantage of the enthusiasm for deals in the rapidly restructuring specialty chemicals sector.

ICI is attempting to reinvent itself as a specialty chemicals company, but it may struggle to afford the £1 billion-£1.5 billion price tag that analysts expect the Zeneca business to fetch.

ICI is currently labouring under about £4.4 billion of debt because of delays in disposing of its heavy chemicals interests.

ICI said that it was "always interested in good quality specialty businesses and will be considering this opportunity carefully".

It would prefer to buy only parts of the business, but Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, wants to sell it to a single buyer.

Other possible buyers include BASF, Bayer and Hoechst, which would all be attracted by the fast-growing business making intermediates for pharmaceuticals manufacture. Zeneca Specialties also makes dyes and inks for ink jet printers, resins and leather chemicals.

David Phillips, a Sutherland analyst, said that the business would also fit well with Ciba Specialty Chemicals and Clariant, but the Swiss

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5449.0	(-27.8)
Nikkei	14075.06	(-332.96)
Dow Jones	8876.08	(-52.25)
S&P Composite	1123.45	(+2.48)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month eurodollar	6 7/8	(8 1/4)
6-month eurodollar	7 1/8	(8 1/4)
12-month eurodollar	8 1/8	(8 1/4)
3-month yen	100.8	(100.4)
6-month yen	100.8	(100.4)
12-month yen	100.8	(100.4)

TOKYO STOCK MARKET		
Nikkei	14075.06	(-332.96)
Dow Jones	8876.08	(-52.25)
S&P Composite	1123.45	(+2.48)

## Tories in £100m rail link bill claim

By Jason Nisbet and Alasdair Murray

THE Government was yesterday accused of adding £100 million to the cost of building the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link through an off-balance sheet accounting move that keeps down the public sector borrowing requirement.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, has written to Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, querying the deal in which the Government will guarantee £2.65 billion of bonds issued by London & Continental Railways, which is building the link.

Research by CSFB, the broker, shows that if the Government had raised the money itself, and lent it to LCR, financial investors would have been prepared to accept an interest rate up to 0.3 per cent lower, so saving LCR £100 million.

This structure would make no difference should LCR suffer financial difficulties, as the Government would still have to foot the bill. But it would mean the £2.65 billion would have to be included in the PSBR, a situation avoided by issuing a guarantee.

Mr Robinson admitted that there would be an extra cost but said that this was worth paying to have the discipline of the private sector financing and managing the project.

Meanwhile, Mr Robinson, has announced that Sir Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Assurance, is to review the Government's PFI policies.

## Shell sheds 20% of oil products workforce

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

THOUSANDS of Shell employees were yesterday told that their jobs would be eliminated in a massive restructuring of the oil company's refining and marketing businesses across Europe.

Shell has increased the job attrition rate from 15 to 20 per cent of its 15,000 strong oil products workforce since the restructuring was first mooted a year ago. Most of the job losses will be on the Continent, with some 370 jobs to go in Germany and 200 in Holland.

The Shell announcement coincided with news that Texaco was laying off 1,000 workers, accounting for 12 per cent of its oil exploration staff, to save \$200 million (£121 million) a year. The job cuts are likely to include staff involved in Texaco's North Sea operations. The

industry is grappling with the problem of restoring profits to operations crippled by low oil prices. This week Mobil and Chevron announced cuts in capital spending due to the low oil price. The UK is particularly vulnerable to cutbacks owing to the high cost of operating in the North Sea.

A spokesman for Shell UK said that between 100-150 downstream jobs would be lost in Britain. He indicated that not all the job losses would be redundancies as some functions, such as road distribution and computer services, were being outsourced with staff transferring to external suppliers.

Shares in the Anglo-Dutch company rose yesterday on expectations that a new conflict in the Gulf would boost the oil

## Wassall builds up BICC stake

By Sarah Cunningham

WASSALL, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate, has built up a 7.35 per cent stake in BICC, the struggling cables and construction business.

A spokesman for Wassall, which recently took over TLG for £353 million, said the 30.9 million BICC shares had been bought as "an investment". He declined to say whether or not Wassall was planning a bid.

Wassall built up its shareholding in TLG over 18 months before a bid by Cooper Industries of Texas prompted it to respond with a higher offer.

BICC shares have recovered since a profit warning in late October sent them to a low of 38p. The shares rose 3p to 57p yesterday.

Market report page 30

## Scottish Media tunes in to Capital Radio

By Jason Nisbet and Chris Ayres

SCOTTISH Media Group, whose interests range from television to newspapers, is looking at making a £500 million offer for Capital Radio as part of its attempts to break out of its Scottish base.

An offer for Capital, which would more than double the size of Scottish Media, has been discussed by the Scottish board. Yesterday the group tried to play down prospects for a bid amid speculation that its largest shareholders, Mirror Group and Flextech, were lukewarm about the idea.

Scottish Media made an offer for VCL, the video maker, earlier this year but was outbid by Kingfisher.

Capital Radio yesterday reassured investors that the market for radio advertising had "remained buoyant" during

the year to September 30, in spite of growing evidence of an economic slowdown. It added that independent research groups forecast the market to grow by as much as 11.5 per cent in 1999.

The company pleased the City with an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £35.1 million to £37.8 million on sales of £17.2 million, up 9.8 per cent from £16.6 million. Earnings per share rose 8.4 per cent from 32.3p to 35p, and a final dividend of 10.5p, up from 9.45p, will be paid on April 6. Shares in Capital remained unchanged at 562.5p.

David Mansfield, chief executive, defended Capital's involvement in restaurants but said that the company had disposed of its outlets in Germany as well as The

Chicago Pizza Pie Factory in Dublin and Beach Blanket Babylon in London.

Capital also said that over the next year it would pump about £2 million into Xfm, the London alternative rock station it bought through a controversial £18 million deal in July. Mr Mansfield said the station was not expected to become profitable for up to three years but that he hoped it would become "a world-class alternative rock station".

The company also revealed that its failed acquisition of Virgin Radio had cost nearly £1 million in fees, and that its Internet service had incurred an operating loss of £750,000 on sales of about £1 million. Capital said that Wildstar, its joint venture record label with Telstar, had made a small profit.

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## IMF team finalising Brazil loan

The International Monetary Fund was last night finalising a multibillion-dollar loan package for Brazil, expected to be announced in full today. Negotiators were still working on a statement of policy commitments that Brazil has made in return for the loans.

Speculation on the package's size ranges from \$30 billion (£18 billion) to \$45 billion. The total depends on how much extra money is provided by bilateral lenders such as the US and other Group of Seven members. Sixteen nations are expected to take part in the effort to stabilise investor confidence in Brazil.

**GEI awaits payout**  
GEI International, the processing machinery group, hopes to receive at least £2.3 million early next year after legal action in the US to recover environmental clean-up costs. Metramatic, its New Jersey subsidiary, was in a 1991 contamination incident and GEI sought the costs from insurers. GEI made interim pre-tax profits of £2.5 million (£1 million loss last time). Earnings were 4.47p a share (4.92p loss). The dividend is 1.5p again.

**Gerrard's record**  
Gerrard Group, the financial group, made record pre-tax profits of £20.4 million in the half year to September 30, up from £14.4 million, but says that second-half trading may be tougher. Earnings per share rose to 18.5p (13.5p). The interim dividend remains 8p. Greig Middleton, the stockbroker subsidiary, is to withdraw from mainstream institutional agency broking.

**Chrysler's farewell**  
Chrysler's shares yesterday ceased trading on the New York Stock Exchange, ending a 73-year run, after completion of its \$37 billion (£22 billion) merger with Daimler-Benz of Germany. Daimler-Benz shares will be listed in New York and Frankfurt.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	20.71	19.06
Austria Sch	81.00	86.04
Canada \$	2.686	2.496
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8716	0.8001
Denmark Kr	11.34	10.36
Spain Ptas	5.86	5.47
Finland Mk	9.07	8.32
France Fr	9.87	9.09
Germany DM	2.965	2.723
Greece Dr	495	456
Hong Kong \$	13.55	12.45
Indonesia Rp	129	106
India Rupee	16848	11948
Ireland P	1.1789	1.0889
Israel Sh	7.57	6.71
Italy Lira	2947	2710
Japan Yen	219.85	202.42
Korea Won	0.065	0.064
Netherlands Gld	3.250	3.095
New Zealand \$	3.26	3.02
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	209.82	277.59
S. Africa Rd	10.19	9.23
Spain Ptas	249.68	230.89
Sweden Kr	14.21	13.11
Switzerland Fr	2.482	2.244
Taiwan NT	504.30	470.22
USA \$	1.764	1.621

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Peter Hickson, finance director of PowerGen, left, and Ed Wallis, who described the Australian market as less bureaucratic

## PowerGen turns its attention to Australia

By FRASER NELSON

POWERGEN, Britain's largest electricity company, is growing tired of hunting for a £1 billion acquisition in America and is now turning its attention towards Australia.

Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, said that the deregulation of the American electricity is taking much longer to mature than he had at first expected. The company has been searching for a deal in the US for the past 18 months.

The Australian market, he said, was far less bureaucratic and easier for overseas companies to invest in — with the New South Wales electricity

network due to be privatised in the New Year.

Mr Wallis, who is also chairman of LucasVarity, whose plans to move to the US were blocked by investors last week, said: "The US is a very big, complicated country and it's not really ready yet. The pace of deregulation has been slow, but in Australia things are much easier."

PowerGen could also bid for one of the privatised electricity companies in Victoria, he said, or wait for the New South Wales sell-off to get under way. "We are prepared to look at whatever opportunities come

up," he said. "We have a big coalmine power station there, and a full PowerGen team."

He added that the company's Yallourn power station is beginning to benefit from a recovery of electricity pool prices in Victoria.

Although PowerGen has only £22 million of cash in the bank, it is expected to raise up to £1 billion from selling 4,000MW of coal generating capacity. It promised this disposal to win regulatory approval for its July £1.9 billion acquisition of East Midlands Electricity.

The cold summer increased

demand for electricity by 2.5 per cent across England and Wales, allowing the company to capitalise on poor performance from its rival nuclear power producers.

This, with £19 million of profit contributed by new acquisitions, helped group pre-tax profit to £156 million (£154 million) for the six months to September 27.

Earnings were 18.6p (12.5p loss) for the six months, and the interim dividend rises to 10p (9p) per share. PowerGen shares fell 18p to 869p.

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## Start-up costs hit News Corp

By RAYMOND SNODDY  
MEDIA EDITOR

PROFITS of The News Corporation, the international media group, fell 18 per cent in the three months to September 30.

The \$196 million profit (£119 million) before abnormal items compared with \$243 million in the same period last year. The fall was mainly caused by increased start-up costs in ventures such as satellite television in Latin America and cable joint ventures in the US.

Operating revenues grew 12 per cent to \$3.2 billion and operating income before depreciation and amortisation was up 10 per cent to \$407 million. Earnings for each ADR before abnormal items was \$0.20 (\$0.26).

News Corp, parent company of The Times, said the results had been driven by several summer film releases such as *There's Something About Mary*, the video release of *Titanic*, and improvements at the publisher HarperCollins.

A reduction in the profits of the newspaper division was caused by temporary cover price cuts and extra promotion for *The Sun*, together with the adverse impact of the weaker Australian dollar on Australian newspaper results. In the UK *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* increased advertising revenues and improved operating income.

This week News Corp announced the sale of 18.6 per cent of Fox Entertainment Group in an initial public offering for \$2.8 billion — the third largest in US history.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Taiwanese company boosts Silicon Glen

UP TO 700 new jobs are to be created in Scotland's Silicon Glen through an investment by a Taiwanese electronics firm. The Universal Scientific Industrial Company announced plans for a £15 million plant in Irvine, Strathclyde, to become its European manufacturing base. The company, which makes electronic and computer components, said the workforce would build up to 700 over two to three years, on a 27-acre site in Irvine.

Universal cited the number of electronics companies already in Scotland, the availability and quality of the Scottish workforce, and air links developed by Prestwick Airport, as factors that made it choose Scotland after a 15-month search for a European base. The project was won for Scotland against fierce competition from the Republic of Ireland, in a concerted effort by Locate in Scotland, the Invest in Britain Bureau, Enterprise Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Council.

## Bemrose plunges

SHARES of Bemrose Corporation fell 80p to 277½p yesterday after the company said that annual pre-tax profits would fall 10 per cent against the underlying figure reported last year. Roger Booth, chairman, said that sales of its seasonal calendars and diaries in both Britain and America had not reached expected levels. He said the shortfall was unlikely to be recovered this year. Jeffrey Meyer, president of Bemrose USA, has resigned from the company and the board.

## Fairness at Work call

A SENIOR union leader yesterday urged the Government not to water down union recognition plans in its Fairness at Work White Paper. Unions fear a provision might be added requiring workers to be in a union for three to six months before they can be included. Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "People have the right to vote on industrial action from day one, so why shouldn't they vote for union recognition?"

## Russian banks to close

HALF of Russia's commercial banks will have to be closed because the Government does not have the money to bail them out, Andrei Kozlov, Deputy Chairman of the Russian central bank said yesterday. Viktor Gerashchenko, Chairman of the bank, said that the bank failures would be announced altogether at the end of November. Russia's banks become vulnerable from Monday, when a government-imposed 90-day moratorium on repaying loans taken out with Western banks expires.

## SkyePharma chief

SKYEPHARMA has promoted Michael Ashton to the post of chief executive, taking on part of the responsibilities of Ian Gowrie-Smith, who remains executive chairman of the drug development company. Mr Ashton, who was previously chief operating officer, is a former chief executive of a division of Faulding, the Australian pharmaceutical group. Rick Stewart, the corporate development director, is to leave the company to take up another senior position.

## Young's profit up 27%

SHARES in Young's, the London brewer and pub operator, jumped 37½p higher to 627½p yesterday as the group unveiled a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.4 million in the half-year to September 26, from turnover up 4 per cent to £41.4 million. Adjusted earnings per share reached 16.51p (15.62p) and the interim dividend is 8.2p (7.75p). Young's acquired four managed houses during the period, taking its total pub estate to 181.

## Oxford profits slide

OXFORD Instruments, the advanced instrumentation company, yesterday reported profits down 30 per cent to £5.1 million for the six months to September 30. The company said shipment problems and the strength of sterling contributed to the reduced results. Turnover was £78.7 million, down from £81.4 million. Earnings per share were 7.0p (10.0p) and the company declared a dividend of 2.4p (2.3p). Oxford Instruments also revealed it is to repurchase 5 per cent of its issued equity.

## Societies urged to help poor

BUILDING societies are being urged by the Government to help to tackle social exclusion (Anne Ashworth writes). However, some society chiefs claim that rules introduced by the Treasury to fight money laundering make access to accounts harder for poor people.

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday urged societies to make their products more suitable for the three million people without a bank or building society account, and to help in creation of credit unions.

The Building Societies Association welcomed her call. However, although happy to help credit unions, some chiefs privately said that new rules to prevent laundering of drug profits in accounts would hit the poor, who were less likely to have a passport or a driving licence to prove identity as required to open an account.

## Japan seeks million jobs from new spending plan

JAPAN hopes to create a million new jobs with its latest spending package to boost the ailing economy, according to an outline published yesterday (Robert Whyman writes).

A plan unveiled by Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party calls for more than ¥10 trillion (£49 billion) in public works spending, home-buying incentives and tax cuts to spur domestic demand and pull the

country out of its prolonged slump.

The emergency stimulus package, which the Government is expected to endorse formally next Monday, includes ¥4 trillion of income tax cuts and a lowering of the corporate tax rate, one of the highest among the big economies, to 40 per cent from next year.

The ruling party also called for at least ¥4 trillion in public

works spending, to be concentrated on information technology, the environment and education and welfare programmes. Instead of the construction projects that are the usual focus of the Government.

The package, which is the seventh since 1992, follows a pledge by Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, to revive the economy within two years.

## Bank of America settlement

BANK OF AMERICA has agreed to pay \$187.5 million (about £113.6 million) to settle lawsuits alleging it mishandled hundreds of municipal bond accounts in California (A correspondent writes from San Francisco).

The lawsuits were brought by the State of California, city and county of San Francisco, nearly 300 local governments and a former Bank of America employee, Patrick Stull.

The lawsuits alleged that the bank failed to return unclaimed property in its municipal bond accounts to the State and the municipalities, failed to properly invest cash in its municipal bond trust accounts and falsely charged municipal customers for trust fees.

The case had been scheduled to go to trial in April. The settlement will be distributed under a formula expected to be presented to the court next month.

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# Bilton looking like fair game



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Are there any takers for a shooting estate in Berkshire or choice salmon fishing rights in Dorset? The likelihood is that, by next week, one of those country gentlemen-type estate agents will have been appointed to find buyers for the pair. Sir Nigel Mobbs, although not opposed to country pursuits, does not believe that such sporting assets sit happily in a property portfolio based on industrial estates.

That Bilton should have taken a different view has been a subject for intense scrutiny as Sir Nigel's Slough Estates has waged its hostile campaign to win control of Bilton. Today the likelihood is that Slough will find itself the new owner of the shooting and fishing assets and it will not risk having them on its books any longer than necessary.

Bilton's managing director, Ron Groom, had hoped to encourage a white knight to ride into the battle, preferably, presumably, one who shared his enthusiasm for a spot of field sports. But the likelihood of rescue must have vanished on Monday, when Schroders pledged its near-17 per cent stake to Slough.

The descendants of the company's founder, Percy Bilton, still appear split over the bid, but the family holding, although a substantial 35 per cent, is unlikely to prove crucial. The other shareholders, offered 310p for shares that have been as low as 186p this

year, seem to have recognised the attractions of Sir Nigel's £276 million offer.

At a discount of about 4.7 per cent to net asset value, it is not overly generous, but why should it be? It is the only bid on the table and is significantly higher than the shares had been before the Slough offer. Which must pose a problem for the trustees of the Percy Bilton charity, which holds a stake of more than 5 per cent in the business. Trustees of those funds that held shares in Savoy Group wrestled with their consciences for years and still came to the questionable conclusion that Lord Forte's money was not something they could accept.

The trustees of the Bilton Settlement have been taking advice on whether their duty to beneficiaries may be to accept the cash. But there are suspicions that some directors of the charity, including Ron Groom, may have found it difficult to hear the advice completely impartially.

Some members of the Bilton family had become unhappy with the way in which Mr Groom and Donald Bilton, the founder's eldest son, combined sitting on the board of the company with being directors of a trust

that held shares in it. They had taken the issue to court, pitching sibling against sibling. That was the signal that persuaded the wily Sir Nigel that the time was right to launch his bid. He had been watching and waiting for years. Should his timing have proved perfect, some members of the family, maybe those who are not fans of blood sports, will have no wish for their money to be tied up in a minority holding.

## Duty-free headaches

Her Majesty's Customs and Excise officers are becoming increasingly agitated about what they are supposed to be doing next summer. They know duty-free sales should be no more, but they do not know what sort of regime they are supposed to be policing in its stead.

The Treasury, too, is said to be scratching its head over the issue.

Yet the problem is not new. Brussels decided seven years ago that duty-free was a concept that did not fit with the big idea of a harmonised tax regime for Europe. Neither does it, but the harmonised tax regime does not exist.

Nonetheless, the date for the abolition of duty-free is there, and fast approaching. All that is missing is the little matter of a sensible plan for what will replace it. Britain has not yet given its agreement to the most recent Brussels proposals, which could amount to cross-Channel ferry operators having to change the prices they charge more than 20 times in a single day.

There are strong suggestions that the EU may have to opt for a further delay in implementing the end of the duty-free regime, just to allow time for some sensible arrangement to be put in place. This might not meet too much opposition from some member states. Before he became German Chancellor, Ger-

hard Schroder had voiced his concerns over a move that would cost jobs, and governments in France and Britain would not shun the opportunity to postpone the job losses that would, inevitably, result from the end of the duty-free traffic.

In total, around 140,000 jobs in Europe are said to be directly linked to the £4.5 billion annual duty-free trade.

The ferry operator P&O has spelled out that, if the regime suggested by Brussels comes into play, and it is allowed to sell duty-paid goods at the rate that it has paid for them, it will prefer to shop in France rather than England.

This is no small matter. Every night 100-ton deliveries are made to the ferries in the UK. That would stop if there was clear commercial advantage to be had by loading up in France instead. There is a certain irony here, in that the ferry operators, P&O among them, are currently doing

all they can to encourage UK shoppers to head to France to stock up on their shopping. The supermarkets might have little sympathy for the ferry companies in their desire to hold on to their own trade. But Gordon Brown is likely to see some merit in their arguments.

## Rekindling an old flame

When Sir Denys Henderson demerged ICI into a chemicals business and a pharmaceuticals firm by the name of Zeneca, he could not have imagined the twist in the tail that emerged yesterday. Now a flourishing Zeneca is to sell some chemicals businesses and ICI would dearly love to buy them back. The problem is it is just a little strapped for cash.

Strategies evolve, as do companies. The demerger was a fine step in realising shareholder value at the time, and those who have stayed with Zeneca shares have reaped the benefits of the fashion for pharmaceutical companies. But ICI has been a less happy story. New boss, Charles Miller Smith, has determinedly

set about streamlining ICI into a fancy specialty chemicals company, ditching the bulk businesses on which it was founded. At the time of the demerger, some chemicals were so special that Sir Denys regarded them as closer to pharmaceuticals, but Sir David Barnes sees things differently.

They may not have fitted into old ICI, but they do fit with new ICI and Mr Miller Smith will be keen to buy them back, with the benefit of the grooming that Sir David has given them as he, too, has streamlined the Zeneca portfolio. It is to be hoped that the costs will not be an insurmountable obstacle in allowing this restructuring to proceed. If it does, could it signal a bout of remarriages? How long before Selfridges decides that Miss Selfridge should be with it rather than with Sears?

## Unsteady surfer

IT WAS a brave move by the Governor of the Bank of England to venture on to the Net yesterday and answer questions from his public. There could have been no doubt that someone would want to tax him over his views on unemployment in the North East, and so they did. He responded with all the reasonableness that has earned him the nickname he now says he is proud to bear. But Suede Eddie is unlikely to prove a regular hit among the Web's chat sites unless he livens up the repartee.

## Glaxo is attacked on R&D

GLAXO WELLCOME'S strategy to contract out a large part of its research and development effort is a "recipe for disaster", a London pharmaceutical conference was told yesterday (Paul Durman writes).

Peter Ringrose, president of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute, said: "To be a viable productive group, you cannot afford to have 50 per cent of your R&D outsourced. You've got to have the critical components of R&D in-house."

Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chairman, believes that drug groups must turn to specialists to keep abreast of advances in science, but Glaxo denied that he had set the 50 per cent target that Dr Ringrose mentioned.

Mike Standing, head of life sciences consulting at Cap Gemini, told the Economist conference that European drug companies need to be more consumer-focused.

# Coral offers lift Ladbroke hopes of painless sale

By DOMINIC WALSH

CORAL, the betting shop chain that Ladbroke is being forced to sell off by the Government, is understood to have attracted indicative offers ranging from £350 million to £400 million.

Ladbroke, which has received at least ten offers, is expected to spend the weekend whittling them down to a shortlist. Analysts believe that the main contenders are the Tote, UK venture capital funds and, possibly, Stanley Leisure.

The group acquired Coral from Bass in January for £363 million, but in September Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, blocked the deal. One analyst said: "Theories that

Ladbroke would lose out in a fire sale look wide of the mark. It could get its money back." Ladbroke is not commenting on the process, although its betting arm was the star of yesterday's third-quarter trading update. The World Cup provided a £6 million boost, with Coral taking around £1.5 million.

The news was less good on Easy Play, the football game launched by Vernons in August through Camelot's National Lottery terminals. Sales are averaging just £800,000 a week against initial forecasts of up to £3 million, and Ladbroke has decided to write off the £9 million launch costs

this year rather than over the normal three years.

Its Hilton hotels arm increased profits, despite further softening in Asia. In the UK, cutbacks by the big financial houses have started to affect expense account business at its big London hotels. Revenue per available room has slowed from 11 per cent at the half year to about 6 per cent.

The group confirmed that it has been awarded a contract to operate the Great Western Royal Hotel at London's Paddington Station. It will reopen in 2000 as the GWR Hilton Paddington.

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## GRE to revamp life fund

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange received a mixed response from the City after it issued a veiled profits warning while also announcing a revamp of its life fund (Marianne Curphy writes).

Though the shares rose 84p to 291½p SBC Warburg Dillon Reed downgraded its 1998 pre-tax profit forecast from £85 million to £65 million, compared with the £181 million earned in 1997.

GRE is restructuring its life and health businesses in the UK with a £300 million capital injection into its subsidiary, PPP lifetime care. GRE hopes the move will serve to enhance competitiveness.

The insurer is relaunching its UK life assurance operation as a 100 per cent shareholder-owned activity. GRE's old life fund will be closed to new business.

## Danka review must be done by next month

By CHRIS AYRES

DANKA Business Systems, the troubled photocopier group that recently lost both its chairman and chief executive, yesterday revealed that its debts had reached \$1 billion (£600 million) during the six months to September 30.

The company, which obtained a waiver from its lenders until February to tackle a deepening financial crisis, said it had until the end of the month to draw up a new business plan. Over the past two years, Danka's share price has collapsed from a high of 848p to just 63p yesterday.

The new business plan will have to be approved by the company's lenders — a syndicate of about 30 US banks — before it can receive an emergency \$35 million loan. Danka has already received \$40 mil-

lion in loans since the waiver was granted.

Larry Switzer, the temporary chief executive, said: "In conjunction with Wassenstein Perella [the US investment bank], the group is undertaking a detailed review of its operations and business plan, including evaluating certain restructuring opportunities. We continue to face significant challenges."

Danka reported losses of £1.8 million in the six months to September 30, compared with a profit of £43 million. Sales fell 10 per cent from £1 billion to £907 million. The loss per share was 0.6p, compared with earnings of 13.5p.

Danka blamed the fall in revenues on "a decrease in retail service, supply, and rental sales".

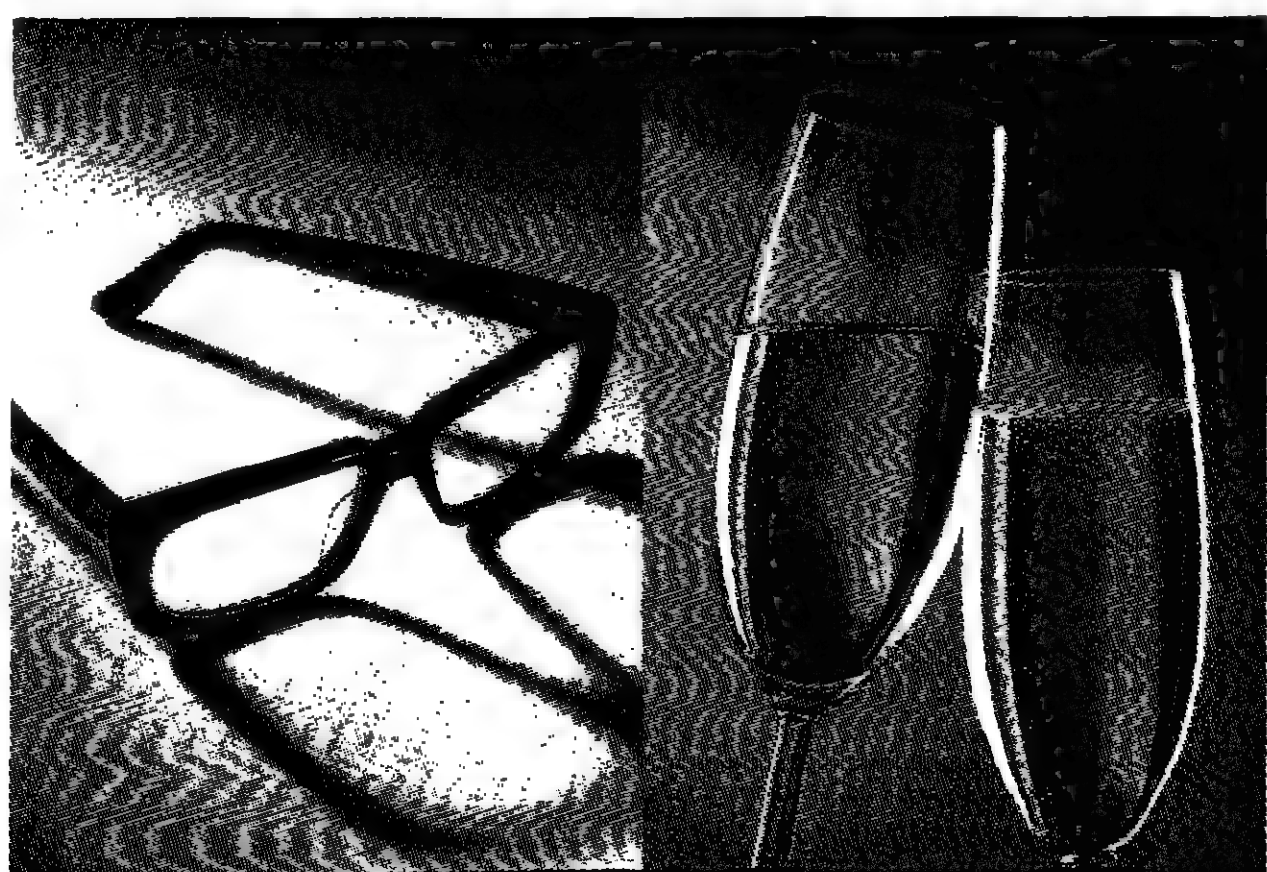
## RIT trust suffers setback

RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust chaired by Lord Rothschild, has seen its half-year returns devastated by last summer's market turbulence (Gavin Luscombe writes). Assets fell by \$54 million to \$756 million in the six months to the September 30, compared with the £86 million growth it achieved for the same period last year.

A takeover bid in July for Fonorola, RIT's largest investment, spared the trust from worse figures. RIT gained a total of £100 million for the Canadian telecoms company.

Since the end of March, the company has reduced its equity exposure from 75 per cent to just 52 per cent. About a quarter of its portfolio is now in US treasuries and other government bonds with a further £36 million in cash. However, it retains 12 per cent in unquoted companies and 8 per cent in specialist funds.

Commentary, this page



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## POWERGEN PLC HALF-YEAR RESULTS

Commenting on the results, Chairman, Ed Wallis, said: "PowerGen has delivered a solid financial performance with earnings per share (before windfall tax, exceptionals and goodwill amortisation) and dividends both showing 11 per cent growth. This year has seen the repositioning of PowerGen and the company is now poised, as a leading player in UK electricity and gas, ready to compete as markets open up. Overseas, activity has been focused on countries where the vertically integrated electricity and gas model, similar to the UK, is achievable. An entry into the US remains a part of the PowerGen strategy. Clear focus on this approach of delivering UK and international growth will make PowerGen a larger, leading international gas and electricity company able to sustain profit improvement and value creation for shareholders in the long term."

### POWERGEN PLC CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Unaudited Half year to 27 September 1998	Unaudited Half year to 28 September 1997
	£m	£m
Group turnover	1,267	1,185
Group operating profit, including associates	218	187
Net interest payable, including associates	(62)	(33)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	156	154
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(36)	(38)
Windfall tax	—	(196)
Profit/(Loss) on ordinary activities after taxation	120	(80)
Dividends	(65)	(59)
Retained Profit/(Loss) for the period	55	(139)
Earnings/(Loss) per ordinary share	18.6p	(12.5)p
Earnings per ordinary share (excluding windfall tax and goodwill amortisation)	20.1p	18.1p
Dividends per ordinary share	10.0p	9.0p

Note:  
FRS 9 "Associates and Joint Ventures" has led to changes in presentation of both operating profit and interest costs; comparatives have been restated. The acquisition of East Midlands Electricity has resulted in a £10 million amortisation of goodwill charge against operating profits in 1998 due to the adoption of FRS 10 "Goodwill and Intangible Assets".

The PowerGen 1998 Interim Dividend of 10.0p per share will be paid on 8 December 1998. The Scrip Dividend Plan will NOT apply to this Interim Dividend, and residual entitlements under the Plan will be paid to shareholders with their Interim Dividend. Key dates are as follows:

### KEY DATES:

23 November 1998	PowerGen Shares begin to trade "ex dividend".
26 November 1998	Shareholders on the register at close of business qualify for the 1998 Interim Dividend.
8 December 1998	Interim Dividend paid.



POWERGEN

THE POWER BEHIND POWER

The full results may be seen on the PowerGen Internet web site at www.pgen.com











## 32 EQUITY PRICES

1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601	600	599	598	597	596	595	594	593	592	591	590	589	588	587	586	585	584	583	582	581	580	5
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## Resilient performance by equities

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

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[illegible]

1998	Low Company	Price	%	1998	Low Company	Price	%
201	201	201	201	214	214	214	214
202	202	202	202	215	215	215	215
203	203	203	203	216	216	216	216
204	204	204	204	217	217	217	217
205	205	205	205	218	218	218	218
206	206	206	206	219	219	219	219
207	207	207	207	220	220	220	220
208	208	208	208	221	221	221	221
209	209	209	209	222	222	222	222
210	210	210	210	223	223	223	223
211	211	211	211	224	224	224	224
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213	213	213	213	226	226	226	226
214	214	214	214	227	227	227	227
215	215	215	215	228	228	228	228
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فَكَذَّبْنَا مِنْ الْأَوَّلِ



## Heritage acquired by Masco

America's Masco is taking over Heritage Bathrooms for £40.5 million. Masco's offer of 220p a share has already secured acceptances in respect of 50.15 per cent of the UK company. The terms represent a 44.3 per cent premium to the price at which the shares traded before bid talks were made public earlier this month. In its last financial year Heritage earned pre-tax profits of £4.78 million on sales of £22 million.

### Pillar plan

Pillar Property, the property investment and development group, has joined London Transport to submit a planning proposal for the £65 million redevelopment of the site surrounding Fulham Broadway Underground station. The proposal includes shops, a supermarket, restaurants, a 12-screen cinema complex and a health club.

### Dennis wins orders

Dennis, the vehicle manufacturer acquired by Mayflower Corporation earlier this month, has won orders for new buses worth £40 million from New World First Bus, of Hong Kong. It was also announced that Steve Burton has resigned as chief executive. Brendan Geary, finance director, will leave the company in February, when the head office is due to close.

### Po Na Na ahead

Po Na Na Group, which runs a chain of bars, yesterday announced pre-tax profit of £70,356 for the six months to September 27, compared with £36,504 last time. Earnings per share were 3.11p (0.47p). The company began the year with 15 bars, spread across the country, and plans to have 24 bars by the end of the year.

### Naafi dividend up

Naafi, the Navy, Army, Air Force Institutes, yesterday announced a profit of £7.9 million for the year ending May 2, up from £5.2 million last time. Owned mutually by Armed Forces personnel and providing retail and leisure facilities, it returned an increased dividend of £2.9 million (£2.5 million).

# Acquisitive Bank of Ireland to splash out

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Bank of Ireland, which owns the Bristol & West, plans to spend up to £700 million on buying another UK bank or building society.

The bank's announcement came as it revealed that interim pre-tax profits before exceptional items had risen by 34 per cent from £1,250 million (£227 million) to £1,674 million (£277 million). These included the £1,572.4 million from the sale of the group's 23.5 per cent shareholding in the Citizens Financial Group.

Paul D'Alton, the group's financial officer, said that the bank had managed to increase its profits over the six-month period, in contrast to some of the other banks, because it was not exposed to emerging markets, nor did it have any exposure to hedge funds.

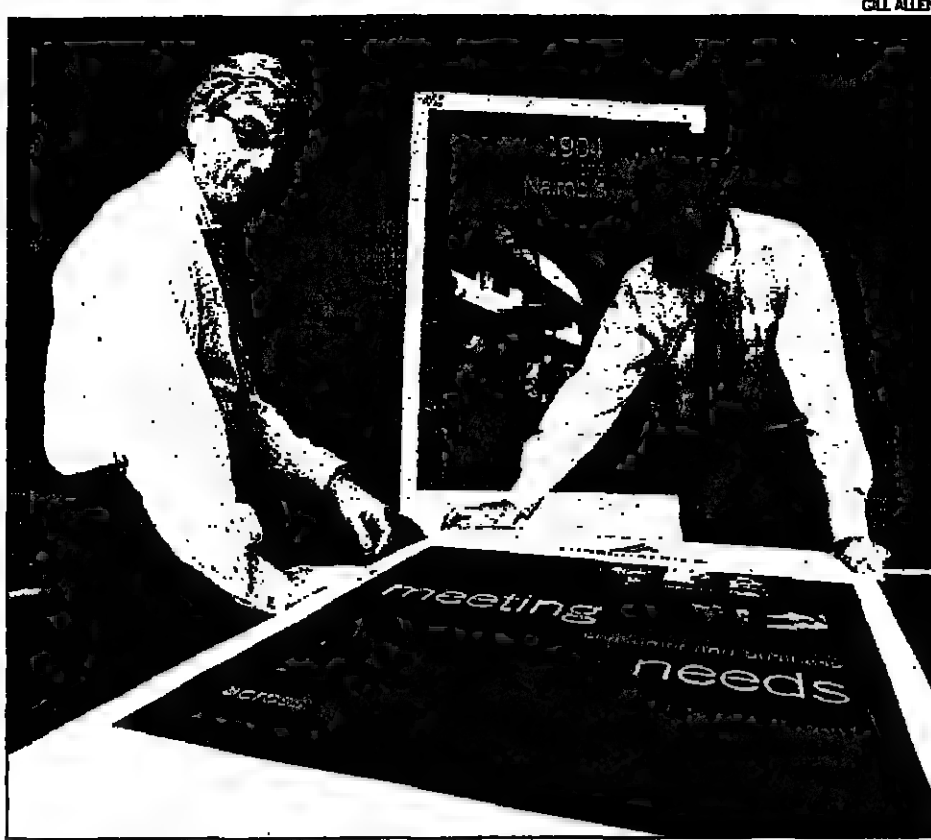
Mr D'Alton said: "We operate a low-risk business." He added that the bank was not

interested in buying a life insurance company, but is instead keeping an eye on the UK building society sector. He added: "We are not in any hurry to make a purchase."

The West Bromwich, Portman and Cheshire are within the price range of the Bank of Ireland. However, all three societies claim that they are keen to remain mutual.

Mr D'Alton said that the group was particularly pleased with the results generated by the Bristol & West, which was bought by the Bank of Ireland last year. The Bristol & West contributed £76.5 million to total profits. He said that the former building society's share of new lending had increased in spite of increased competition in the lending market.

The group pointed out that it has spent a total of £28.7 million on the Year 2000 project and the single currency. The bank is paying an interim dividend of 9.2p.



Mark Newman, left, with Keith Atkinson, Lonrho Africa's finance director, yesterday

## Lonrho Africa resists coup

### BOARD members of Lonrho

Africa have hit back at the attempts by Blakeney, the asset management group, to oust the Africa specialist's chairman, Bernard Asher, and two other non-executive directors, Stephen Walls and Michael Wilson (Jason Nisse writes).

Blakeney yesterday posted a letter to shareholders calling for an extraordinary general meeting to replace the three

### directors with three of its own

appointees. A compromise deal was rejected by Lonrho Africa because it would have created an executive committee, half of whose members would have been Blakeney nominees. Lonrho Africa said this would have been control by the back door.

Mark Newman, Lonrho Africa's chief executive, said

### yesterday that the company

had rejected Blakeney's plans because "the existing board has the right strategy and the right directors for the future of Lonrho Africa".

He added that links between Blakeney's nominees and two other groups operating in the continent — Africa Lakes and Africa Plantations — meant they had a conflict of interest with Lonrho Africa.

## Telewest sales rise under new chief

TELEWEST, the cable television giant that recently hired Tony Illsley, the former Walkers Crisps supremo, as its chief executive, yesterday revealed a small fall in year-on-year third-quarter losses from £91 million to £88 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The group, which recently merged with General Cable and increased its stake in Birmingham Cable to 72 per cent, saw a 38 per cent rise in sales from £100 million to £138 million. Losses per share fell from 0.09p to 0.05p. Debt at the end of the quarter was £2 billion.

Telewest saw cable television customers increase by 16 per cent during the quarter to 675,000, with average monthly spend per customer falling slightly to £23. Residential telephone customers, meanwhile, rose 15 per cent to 876,000, with average monthly spend per line again falling slightly to £19.

Mr Illsley said: "We believe our combination of local access, national network and broadband capacity positions us well to meet the rapidly growing demand for business services, especially the higher-margin products."

## Asset management boosts ED&F Man

A STRONG performance by the asset management business of ED&F Man, the commodities and financial services group, offset a collapse in profits at its commodity trading arm (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Underlying pre-tax profit in the six months to September rose by 39 per cent from £39.7 per cent to £55.3 million. Earnings per share rose from 10.4p to 15.4p and the company is paying an interim dividend of 4p.

Collapsing demand in the Far East and Russian markets led to a pre-tax

loss in sugar of £3.6 million compared with profits of £7.2 million last year. Molasses and alcohol made a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million compared with a £3 million profit. Cocoa, coffee and edible nuts increased profits from £6.6 million to £7.9 million.

By contrast Man Investment Products made a profit of £45.2 million, up from £15 million. The strong level of fund performance generated substantial performance-related fee income.

Temps, page 30

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Warning issued by Haden MacLellan

SHARES of Haden MacLellan fell 22½p to 59½p yesterday after the engineering company gave warning of the adverse impact of a marked slowdown in the automotive industry. The company said that although it had made a promising start to the second half, the fourth quarter had "shown a rapid deterioration across most geographical markets, particularly in the automotive sector".

The market slowdown had led to delays in contracts for Haden MacLellan's process engineering division. It also had an impact on the group's fasteners and industrial services businesses in the UK. As a result, second-half profits were unlikely to match those of the first half, the company said yesterday. In September the group had reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £7 million in the six months to June 30. Yesterday's warning also affected other automotive component manufacturers. Shares in GKN fell back 31p to close at 65½p. TI Group dropped 17p to 33½p and LucasVarity weakened 11½p to 190½p.

## Staveley in demerger

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES is to proceed with plans to demerge its support services division and British Salt, with detailed proposals that are likely to be put to shareholders by July 1999. The company, which has already undergone extensive restructuring, yesterday reported a 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.3 million in the six months to September 26. Earnings rose to 4.1p a share from 2.9p. The interim dividend is held at 2.5p a share.

## Bandt climbs by 50%

BANDT, a provider of scaffolding and other industrial services, said that a good overall trading performance for the six months to October 4 generated a 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £4 million. Turnover was £39.48 million, up from £38.89 million for the corresponding period in the previous year. Earnings per share were 2.5p, compared with 1.8p, and the company declared an interim dividend of 0.5p, up from 0.4p.

## Greycoat bidding time

GREYCOAT, the property company, reported first-half pre-tax profits unchanged at £5.6 million, but said it was well placed to take advantage of a growing shortage of prime office space in Central London. The company is a partner in a consortium that acquired the International Financial Centre, formerly the NatWest Tower, for £226 million in August. Greycoat does not pay an interim dividend but said it expects to lift the total dividend to 1.9p a share from 1.5p for the year to March 31.

## Lynx leaps ahead

LYNX GROUP, the computer services company, lifted pre-tax profits to £13.25 million from £9.8 million in the year to September 30 on turnover that rose 50 per cent to £180.9 million. Earnings per share rose to 8.67p from 6.83p. A final dividend of 1.7p lifts the total to 2.25p (2p). Stewart Douglas-Mann, who succeeded Roger Pinnington as chairman in August, said the markets in which Lynx operates continue to offer substantial opportunities for growth. The shares fell 1½p to 184½p.

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POP  
Jewel, the  
charmer  
from Alaska

PAGE 37

# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE  
Touching  
social drama in  
Be My Baby

PAGE 38



**I**t's not that I'm superstitious or anything. Friday the Thirteenth? Just another date, mate. OK, I might set off for work an hour or two early, but only as a precaution. Skipping round those cracks in the pavement is very time-consuming, you know — not to say downright embarrassing for a man of advancing years and ever-ballooning torso.

Then there's the problem of the black cats and the ladders. No point in taking chances. Not with Uranus in the ascendant and the tea-leaves inscrutable.

But otherwise it will be business as usual. A quick half-hour flip through the horoscopes, an informal departmental seance and blood-sacrifice, a little light palm-reading — then straight down to work. Just a normal day.

Mind you, I do have a soft spot for that off-used but little-considered phrase, "don't push your luck". Macbeth, Othello, Don Giovanni and virtually every other doomed protagonist in Western

## Fingers crossed, we'll get through today

drama all pushed their luck, and look where it got them.

In fact the subject of luck-pushing obsessed the great dramatists and composers. True, some put forward the wildly optimistic view that man can control his own destiny. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, for instance, is generally reckoned to be a brilliant depiction of the human spirit emerging triumphant over a malevolent Fate. That is why the Fifth acquired such significance in the war against Hitler.

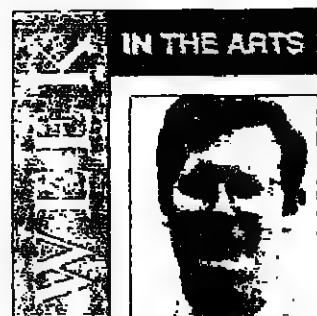
Similarly, if in less exalted vein, Sky Masterson challenges luck to "be a lady tonight" in *Gypsy* and *Dolls* — and wins the heart of his Salvation Army lass with a single audacious throw of the dice. Just like real life, I don't think.

But the usual view of *la forza del destino* in great tragedy is much gloomier. Anything that can go

wrong will go wrong. Who dares never wins. The bolder the deed, the nastier the outcome.

It's a bit depressing, but it does ring true. Just think how often a modern hero pushes his luck and ends up ruined. The glamorous British actor, on the verge of superstardom, really does risk everything for a quickie with a Sunset Boulevard tart. The Cabinet minister really does find himself compromised in a park. The extravagantly handsome footballer really does lash out stupidly in front of a billion TV viewers.

You could say it is "bad luck" that these idols get caught in the act. But that view won't cut any ice with most dramatists. Their attitude is that your character defines the sort of mess you get into. When Clint Eastwood says "do you feel lucky, punk?" to the baddie cring-



RICHARD MORRISON

ing before his Magnum 44, you know that luck actually has nothing to do with it. The baddie is facing retribution because his character has serious flaws.

Of course the "fate factor" in plays and especially operas is often

thought hopelessly implausible. Those babies swapped at birth, those mislaid handkerchiefs, those ridiculous masked balls in which a husband allegedly can't recognise his own wife... to many people they seem incredible — contrary to all rational observation.

I take the opposite view. The trouble with most things you see in the theatre is that they are all too rational, because the author usually has a philosophy of life to put across, and is manipulating the plot like crazy to justify his view.

Whereas what's baffling about ordinary life is the way that happenstance — or fate, if you like — kicks us for no reason at all. You haven't slept with your Mum. You haven't stabbed any Scottish kings. You haven't pinched any gold from the Rhine, or run off with Helen of Troy. In short, you've missed out

on all the fun bits of tragedy, and jumped straight to the divine-retribution part. The car has conked out, your toddler has put his foot through the patio door, your molar aches, and you lose your wallet all on the same day. Who's punishing you, and why?

Serious art rarely captures this helplessness — ordinary folk struggling with the happy hazard micro-disasters of our daily grind. That is because most geniuses are incapable of comprehending mediocrity. Samuel Beckett came close, in a pretentious sort of way. So did John Cage, whose most famous composition — four minutes and 33 seconds of total silence — plithily defined human existence as a timespan containing absolutely nothing of interest.

And, strangely enough, the fly-

on-the-wall "docu-dramas" that are now so ubiquitous on television are useful in this context too. I used to hate them, believing that they turned us all into mocking voyeurs. Now I realise that we love *Hotel* or *Airport* or *The House* not only because we enjoy a laugh at someone else's expense, but because they hold up a mirror to our own impotent rage when the fates buffet us unfairly.

Wouldn't life be sweeter if luck played no part — if people prospered or declined in absolute proportion to their talents and efforts? Don't be daft. It would be unbearable. Imagine reading about some brilliant former classmate who has gone on to do world-class medical research, marry some gorgeous pouting creature, and make a packet from astute investment — and not being able to dismiss him with a lofty "he got a few lucky breaks". Unthinkable. We may feel that fate treats us badly, but boy, it makes a damn good excuse for failure. We all need one of them now and then.

## ENO's unkind cuts

**D**id you know that there was a tradition of rhyming slang in Russia? Nor did I, but this became plain given what Della Jones's feisty Hostess of the Inn was up to while singing her song about a duck. What might have happened if the Tsarevich had been given his song about a parrot begging the imagination, but he isn't in the ENO's rather peculiar conflation of Mussorgsky's two main versions of the score.

It seems that the original idea was to perform the second, complete with the Polish acts, a good idea since audiences here haven't seen it since the days of the Tarkovsky production at Covent Garden, but the Polish acts involve more singers, dancers and a change of decor, and times is hard. So we get basically the seven-scene original with the Kromy Forest Revolution tacked on at the end, which involves removing the gus — ie, the Simpleton's Lament — from the St

Basil's Cathedral scene to avoid repetition. The Kromy Forest Jesuits don't make a lot of sense without the Polish acts, either. Budgetary constraint is all the rage nowadays, but it is good to be reminded every now and then of the losses involved.

Still, all the ingredients for a really good *Boris* are here, but they didn't quite cohere into the expected knockout show on Wednesday and it's hard to say why. The good things first. The ENO chorus was on stunning form, and one of the director Francesca Zambello's greatest strengths is her handling of crowds: the fluidity of mass movement had throughout a thrilling epic dimension. And everyone sang the Lloyd-Jones translation with great care, none more so than John Connell's sonorous Pimen, rather vital since his role involves long narrations. The same was true of Robert Tear's all-smiling Shusky, an absolutely chilling performance, most beautifully sung.



OPERA  
Boris Godunov

Time-travelling is also all the rage nowadays. Hildegard Bechtler's set is abstract, austere but helpfully adaptable under Wolfgang Göbbel's lighting. Nicky Gillibrand's costumes range from men in suits to near-traditional peasant garb. Yes, the action is timeless, and there is another Boris in the Kremlin today. There is a television monitor on which the people watch his coronation. The Tsar is wheeled about in a Boris-mobile. There are ten suited heavies with batons who beat people up, regularly. The ending is almost too pat: the Pretender (John Daskal, very good) enters in triumph in the same Boris-mobile with the same heavies. Er, yes.

What of the protagonist?

John Tomlinson — whose Boris is inevitably associated with another flawed ruler, Wotan — is in fine, smooth voice, phrasing the music as expressively as he projects the text. His journey from snazzy, grey-suited executive to cheerful family man to conscience-stricken autocrat in traditional Russian shirt and fur is, at each stage, splendidly vivid but as yet doesn't quite hang together; his spectacular collapse in the Study Scene is in no sense prepared for — it comes as a shock, and it shouldn't. It was here, too, that Paul Daniel, in an otherwise carefully paced performance, pushed ahead a little too fiercely, and Boris's solo became a very externalised interior monologue. The epic dimension so evident in the public scenes went missing.

This could be a production that develops from performance to performance. We'll see.

RODNEY MILNES



A whole less than its parts: despite John Tomlinson's fine, smooth voice, ENO's *Boris Godunov* failed to gel properly

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## POP PROFILE

Indestructible Metallica

## ARTS

## LIVE GIG

Hats off to Garth Brooks

## Tea and sympathy for the devil?

This time last year, when *Q* magazine decided to tackle the perennial question of exactly who is "the biggest band in the world", few casual observers would have tipped Metallica for a place in the Top Five. But after a mass of statistical data — including CD and concert ticket sales, airplay and other media exposure — was collected and compared, there they were, just ahead of the Rolling Stones and not far behind Oasis, U2 and the inevitable top dogs, the Spice Girls.

In Britain the very idea of locating Metallica among such mainstream, company seems faintly ridiculous. To the group's fans they are demigods, but among the broad mass of non-initiates there remains a lingering image of long-haired buffoons in scrum-squeezing trousers cranking out an unlovely brand of *ubermensch* rock at ear-thrilling volume.

"In certain places — England, Germany, Japan — Metallica still have this heavy metal tag," says the band's drummer, Lars Ulrich. "But in America we're just regarded as a rock band alongside R.E.M., U2, Beck, Courtney Love and whoever."

Ulrich, who is dressed and groomed casually but neatly, sits cross-legged amid the discreet opulence of a suite in Claridge's, where he and guitarist Kirk Hammett are staying. Unfortunately, Hammett is in the early throes of what is

What's a nice thrash metal monster like Lars Ulrich doing in a posh place like this? David Sinclair finds out

later diagnosed as appendicitis and cannot attend the interview. But Ulrich, who co-founded Metallica with singer and guitarist James Hetfield in San Francisco 17 years ago, has plenty to say.

"The difference between hard rock and most other sorts of music is that for the fans it becomes part of an all-encompassing lifestyle," he says. "But I can't live my life according to what they want from me."

Anyone expecting to be confronted by the flailing, bare-torsoed animal who has bludgeoned his massive Tama double-bass drum kit on the biggest stages in the world would be disabused of the idea within minutes of meeting Ulrich in person. In real life, the Danish-born musician is clearly a man of wealth and taste, whose lifestyle could not be further removed from that of the stereotypical headbanger. The son of the former tennis pro Torben Ulrich, he has inherited a naturally athletic physique, and at the age of 34

maintains a keen interest in keeping fit. Metallica always stay at the best hotels, and when in London Ulrich usually pays a visit to Christie's auction house in search of paintings to add to his collection of 20th-century art. "The past five years I've calmed down a lot," he says. "Instead of keeping up with everything that's happening in the rock world I'm content just to put on a John Coltrane CD and kick back. Metallica are still fun, but it's no longer a matter of life and death."

Such a sanguine attitude is in sharp contrast to the early days of Metallica, when the group's fervour knew no bounds. By combining authentic metal thunder with the coolest of punk attitude, they virtually invented the searing heavy rock hybrid known as speed or thrash metal. When I first saw them, at London's Marquee club in 1984, they played with raw, minimalist zeal and at such a speed and volume that the performance verged on caricature: the Ramones of heavy metal.

"We could never draw a line between Iron Maiden, Motörhead, Venom, the Anti-Nowhere League, Discharge and the Sex Pistols to say where it stopped being heavy metal and started becoming punk," Ulrich says. "We were turned on by the energy and attitude of punk, but we were also into the craft of songwriting and playing our instruments well."

Metallica's forthcoming double-album, *Garage Inc.*, is in part a celebration of an even earlier era in the group's development, when their set would routinely incorporate cover versions of their favourite artists' songs.

It features every cover version the band has ever released (16 in all), together with 11 hastily assembled new recordings of songs previously committed to disc by other artists. Included are several numbers by Motörhead and Diamond Head (the two key influences on Metallica), along with songs from such varied sources as Budgie, Discharge, Black Sabbath, Killing Joke, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Anti-Nowhere League, Blue Öyster Cult, Thin Lizzy, Bob Seger, Nick Cave and Queen.

A high percentage of the songs are by English acts, a reflection of Ulrich's and Hetfield's early fascination with the so-called New Wave Of British Heavy Metal. This hectic and short-lived scene, which blossomed at the turn of the 1980s, is described by David Fricke in his impressively researched liner notes to *Garage Inc.* as "a fan-driven backlash to the platinum-rock aristocracy and the hokey grandeur of arena-show culture."

But aren't Metallica in 1998 as much a part of the "platinum-rock aristocracy" as any of the bands they once railed against? "I wouldn't deny that or try to talk my way out of it," Ulrich says, somewhat haltingly. "But we've always kept the creative side as pure as we can. We follow our creative instincts wherever they take us, and I feel as if this record definitely marks the end of a chap-



Yes, it is Metallica's Lars Ulrich proving as adept with china as he is with his twin bass drums

ter. The process is due for a shake-up."

Having worked together for 17 years, Ulrich and Hetfield both became fathers for the first time within seven weeks of each other this summer and, while he claims that fatherhood hasn't affected his thinking about the band as yet, Ulrich seems to be in a mood for reassessing his priorities. "The touring thing is becoming more like a chore and

sometimes I get very depressed just thinking about being on the road for long periods of time. And, as time goes by, playing the drums is less and less interesting to me. I have a drumkit set up at my house and I have to force myself to go in there sometimes."

So are Metallica the last great Monsters Of Rock? "Probably," Ulrich says. "Is that evasive enough? To be honest, it's hard for me to take a passionate stand one way or the other."

Garage Inc is released by Vertigo/Mercury on Nov 23

CHRIS PARKER

## Hands of gold

BRAD MEHLDAU

Songs: *The Art of the Trio*, Vol. 3 (Warner Bros. 9362-47051-2) THOSE unable to get to see American pianist Brad Mehldau's solo performance tomorrow at the Purcell Room might console themselves with this, the third of his *Art of the Trio* recordings, featuring bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy.

Mehldau's classical training shows in his extraordinary sensitivity to nuance and subtleties of colouration, but his improvisational gift is what has led such luminaries as Pat Metheny and Charlie Haden

## JAZZ ALBUMS

to rave about him. Here, Mehldau intersperses luxuriantly slow standards with his own intense, quirky compositions to produce a series of slow-building, meditative explorations packed with musical wit and controlled drama. This elegant album can only enhance his already enviable reputation.

## THE REMOTE VIEWERS

*Low Shapes in Dark Heat* (Leo Lab CD 049)

THE Remote Viewers — soprano/alto player Adrian Northover, altoist Louise Potts, tenor and synth player Dave Potts — are the three saxophonists from B Shops for the Poor, so those familiar with the parent group's blend of fierce improvisation and close-harmony regimentation will immediately recognise the trio's overall sound.

Their material, however — a mix of distinctive originals, many sounding like escapes from a lost soundtrack to *Metropolis*, and visits to Sun Ra's *Astro Black*, the theme to the TV series *Callan* and an affecting version of *It Was a Very Good Year* — is more wide-ranging than B Shops'. It all constitutes not only an absorbing set in its own right, but also a useful introduction to the work of the larger unit.

CHRIS PARKER

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## Big, big country

## LIVE GIG

The money-making juggernaut that is the Garth Brooks entertainment phenomenon last made a passing stop on mainland Britain around 1994, when the best-selling recording artist of the 1990s played at a Wembley Arena crowd that wore its cowboy hats with pride.

Then the juggernaut roared off again, and Brooks went about the business of amassing his almost unbelievable US album sales of 82 million. As Brooks prepares for next Monday's release of his *Double Live* album, his British fans seem to have been written out of the spectacular equation. But his Irish followers are in the thick of it, and glorying in the compliment.

On Wednesday evening at the Kings Hall Brooks played the first of the five Belfast shows with which he is concluding a tour that has thrown concert history into the statistical blender. Over a 32-month period, he has played 347 shows in 99 cities to five million people.

But if the statistics suggest that Brooks has become a one-man industry, that is to underplay his primary talent as an unparalleled communicator.

## LIVE GIG

At his afternoon press conference he explained that, as in all previous 99 ports of call, TV crews would not have access to his show as their sound would not represent his performance in its best light. There spoke the single-minded businessman, but on to the stage came the consummate populist entertainer, and Belfast loved every moment.

The 7,500 sell-out crowd knew every word, every note that the ever-humble Garth and his band served up, and most of those by Trisha Yearwood, who not only provided distinguished support but duetted with Brooks. The highlights of a show that took country, pop and gospel to the masses included *Friends in Low Places* and *If Tomorrow Never Comes*, for which the lights came out in force. To call this irresistible burlesque more than mere country is not to question its lineage: Brooks comes from the heartland of American showbusiness that defies such categorisation, and it's hats off to him for it.

PAUL SEXTON

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The opera singer...  
Kiri Te Kanawa...  
Albert Hall

**The issue of MPs and their sexuality over the past few weeks has led to a vast outpouring of humbug that tells us a lot about the state of society and the workings of the media.**  
Not for the first time some of the purest humbug has come from the BBC in the form of a memo that reads: "Under no circumstances whatsoever should the allegations about Peter Mandelson's private life be repeated or referred to in any broadcast." The memo is still in force.  
Guests invited by a local BBC radio station this week to discuss the press, privacy and gay MPs were told by the producer that the Trade and Industry Secretary should not be mentioned by name.  
At least the BBC is being consistent and politically unbiased. There was another memo, issued on February 7, 1995, which forbade any discussion on air of the sexuality of two Conservative ministers, Michael Portillo and Peter Lilley. The memo stated: "It is important that programmes do not seek by innuendo to give further credence to damaging allegations which, to the best of our knowledge, are not true."  
Anne Sloman, the author of the Mandelson memo, was almost certainly correctly interpreting the BBC guidelines against the gratuitous discussion of the sex lives of politicians for no public purpose and, as she has subsequently argued, the mere fact that a piece of information is in the public domain is not sufficient to justify the BBC reporting it — or, in this case, continuing to report it. It seems a rather Quixotic policy in the days when news can flash around the world in seconds, and where the surest way of gaining the widest publicity for information is to instruct one of the biggest groups of journalists in the world not to refer to it.  
Where there are live programmes there will be live indiscretions. It is certainly arguable whether to out Mandelson live on *Newsnight*. But once the words have been spoken and the genie is out of the bottle, no BBC memos or guidelines can put it back, particularly as nobody is denying the truth of the words. Indeed, the signs are that Mr Mandelson, and several Cabinet colleagues, were against him being singled out, by name, for apparent special treatment in a memo that all involved knew would be instantly leaked.  
It is an iron law of the media that any attempt to suppress information inevitably draws more attention to it. It is time for the BBC to have further thoughts, not necessarily about the guidelines themselves but about what should happen when they have been inadvertently broken, certainly in the case of prominent figures such as Cabinet ministers. Absolute bans make a laughing stock

## The safest solution is to step out of the closet



Raymond Snoddy

of the BBC. Newspapers have also had a difficult week, with the usual cast of characters calling for the introduction of privacy legislation or the strengthening of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) to protect privacy. Privacy legislation suffers from a number of practical flaws, not least the matter of legal costs. The biggest problem is that such legislation would defeat its own purpose.  
It is hard to imagine anything more calculated to destroy privacy than a court hearing. The same applies in a less extravagant way to adjudications by the PCC: Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is merely the latest in a long list of high-profile people who have decided not to make a formal complaint against the press.  
The problem for the media in dealing with the issue of politicians and

homosexuality is that the public mood is still in transition and probably varies by generation. On the whole the public is becoming more tolerant and accepting. The case of Ben Bradshaw, the Exeter MP, is particularly compelling. He was open about his sexuality, was attacked for it, and the electorate gave him a thumping majority.  
We are heading for a situation where politicians can be open about themselves without suffering at the polls, and the sooner that happens the better for all concerned, including newspaper editors and BBC policy advisers. Prostitution and cruising for pick-ups will remain another matter, and that applies equally to heterosexual politicians.  
A role model is Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, who has been, at least in recent years, open about being gay. Now nobody raises an eyebrow, and his partner is invited with him to attend official functions.  
His is an example that should be followed by any Cabinet ministers still in the closet. This would instantly remove temptation from the hands of newspaper editors — and, after all, why should consenting adults be embarrassed about expressing their true nature?

## Blairs' friend wooed to keep out privatisers

■ CHANNEL 4 is lobbying hard for Barry Cox, former LWT millionaire director, to be its deputy chairman when Bert Hardy steps down in December. Cox, through a happy property accident (trading down after a divorce), was a neighbour of the Blairs when they lived in Hackney and became a good friend. He's part of the ex-LWT "mafia", whose members include Sir John Birt, Sir Christopher Bland and Greg Dyke, and has honed his lobbying skills working for the ITV Association and ITN as a consultant.  
Channel 4's board knows that privatisation will return with a vengeance and calculates that Cox's political contacts will be invaluable in fighting off Gordon Brown's Treasury advisers. Hardy, chief executive of European Press Holdings, is an anti-privatiser, but Cox, say insiders, has the advantage of knowing how TV works. The appointment rests with the Independent Television Commission (ITC).  
■ NOW it's Mackenzie & Son. No sooner had Kelvin taken over as the chairman, chief executive and 30 per cent shareholder of Talk Radio than he made his son, Ashley, advertising sales controller. Educated at Bristol University, Ashley has been in a sponsorship and product-placement team, backed by Carat media group in Covent Garden. "He got the call and had to go," says a colleague. Clearly the best man for the job.  
■ NEXT Thursday sees the ITC's ten members decide on whether *News at Ten* should go. I'm told the chairman, Sir Robin Biggam, wants the meeting to come to a unanimous decision. The ITC resents the

degree of political pressure it is under, but given the wide public support for the programme (74 per cent of people polled by the Pareo TV set-top manufacturer say it should stay), it seems that its ruling is bound to be a fudge.  
Interestingly, Ray Kelly, who as chairman and chief executive of media buyers Carat Group UK is one of the ad world's most powerful figures, is convinced that *News at Ten* is staying put.  
■ GLAD to report that even in the fickle world of youth magazines, you're not past it at 30. *Company*, the go-getting glossy aimed at women in their early twenties, has appointed a new editor, Sam Baker, who is joining from *Mix* and before that *Just 17*, where she put up sales by 220 per cent. She's planning to shake up *Company's* dated design. When Ms Baker first rang me, she had just come back from a shopping trip with her Mum. All very reassuring.  
Question: "How old are you?" Answer: "Thirty-two. Do you think I should lie about it?" Absolutely not.  
■ THE Advertising Effectiveness Awards, organised by the Institution of Practitioners in Advertising, was an odd affair. Agencies are so keen to be taken seriously by business that despite loads of well-researched campaigns, no adverts were shown at the event, but the audience was subjected to three speeches. It fell between two stools. An event, which needs to be rethought.

## FT readers swing to Labour

The nation's intellectual elite is abandoning the Tories, says Robert M. Worcester

**B**ritain's financial and intellectual leadership has swung sharply behind the Blair Government since it took office 18 months ago, according to a MORI analysis carried out for *The Times*. Support for the Opposition among readers has slumped from 42 per cent at the general election to just 35 per cent in the third quarter of this year.  
At the election, Labour captured only 28 per cent of readers' votes: if a general election were held tomorrow, however, 47 per cent of *Times* readers who would go to the polls say they would now vote Labour.  
This is a swing of +13 percentage points, the equivalent of some 13 *Times* readers in 100 having switched from supporting the Tories then to supporting Labour now.  
Readers of the *Financial Times* have swung even more sharply to Labour, some 21 in 100 (see table).  
MORI's aggregate of seven voting intention polls during the third quarter of this year (including the three monthly polls for *The Times*) provides large enough sample sizes to analyse the political affiliations of readers of most national newspapers, and to track them over time, in this case since the election. More than 13,000 interviews nationwide were taken by MORI during the election (excluding its exit poll for ITN), and more than 13,000 in the third quarter of 1998.  
At last year's general election, Labour won 44 per cent of the vote and the Tories 31 per cent, a 13 per cent lead. Since then, the gap has widened considerably, with Labour up to 54 per cent in the third quarter of this year and the Tories down to 27 per cent, a 27 per cent swing nationally.  
*FT* readers are also much more likely now to say that they wouldn't vote at all than readers of any other broad-

**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998  
Footsie's hot October  
A technical rebound cannot last forever  
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Your Cat and Your Dog?  
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Brussels proposes reduction in animal feed antibiotics  
The European Commission will today propose a ban on all antibiotics in animal feed...  
Iraq deputy PM 'on secret arms group'  
Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, is believed to be part of a secret arms group...  
Turkish PM faces court challenge  
The Turkish prime minister, Bülent Ecevit, has been challenged by a group of MPs...  
Indonesian month student demands  
Students in Indonesia have been demanding the resignation of President Suharto...  
Pleasant autumn...  
Going Tony Blair's way: more and more readers of the quality press have declared themselves potential Labour voters since the election

**VOTING INTENTION BY READERSHIP**

NEWSPAPER READERSHIP	DON LEAD OVER LAB		Change	Swing
	1997	1998		
Financial Times	+19	-23	-42	-21.0
The Times	+24	-22	-46	-23.0
The Independent	-1	-48	-47	-6.5
The Express	+20	-44	-64	-6.0
The Sun	-22	-33	-11	-5.5
The Daily Mirror	-20	-39	-19	-3.5
The Daily Telegraph	-24	-25	+1	-2.5
The Daily Star	-40	-55	-15	-3.0
Evening Standard	-8	-27	-19	-2.0
SUNDAY NEWSPAPER READERSHIP				
Independent on Sunday	-34	-40	-6	-13.0
The Express on Sunday	-26	-37	-11	-6.5
The Sun on Sunday	-21	-36	-15	-6.0
News of the World	-27	-41	-14	-7.0
The Sunday Mirror	-22	-34	-12	-6.0
Sunday People	-40	-50	-10	-3.5
Sunday Star	-30	-35	-5	-3.0
The Sunday Telegraph	+37	+31	-6	-3.0
No reading paper	-12	-29	-17	-6.5

Robert M. Worcester is the chairman of MORI.

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## media times

## A party? When we hit 1m

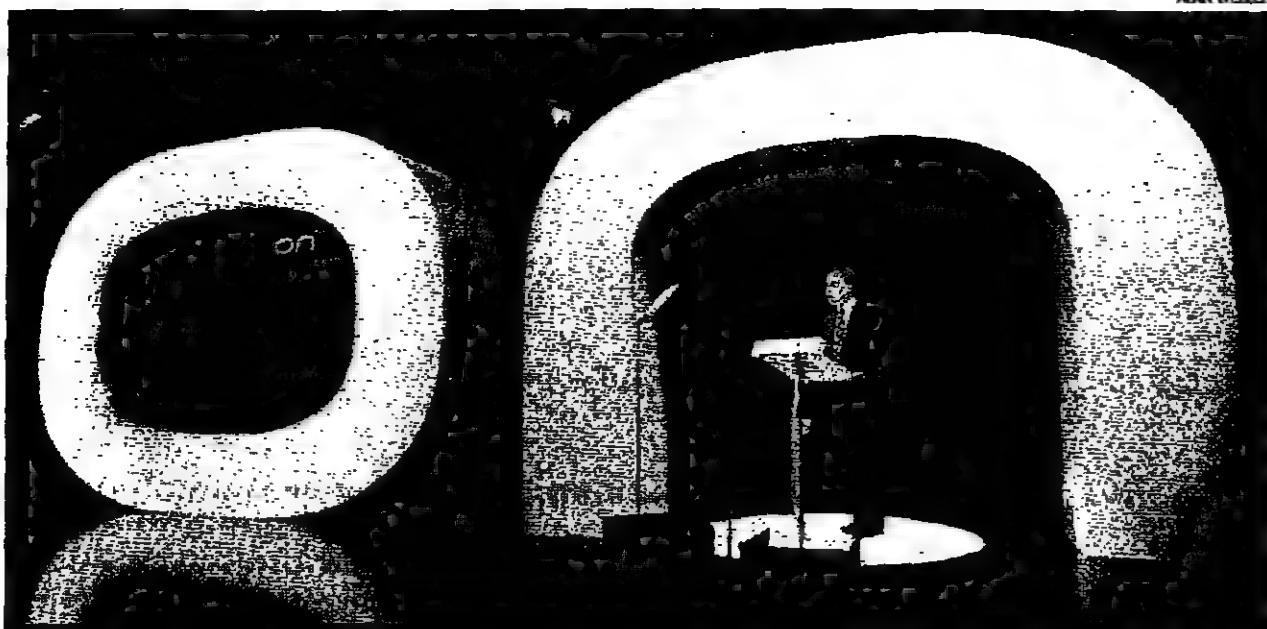
The head of the first digital terrestrial TV service plans to keep the launch low-key. **Raymond Snoddy reports**

When SkyDigital launched its 140-channel service on October 1, a huge party was held in the shell of Battersea Power Station, within sight of Sky's rival, ONdigital.

When the latter launches the world's first digital terrestrial television service on Sunday, it will mark the event in a most unusual way — there will be no party and the various broadcasters that will together offer 30 channels of digital terrestrial will carry out their own on-screen launches. "This is work as usual. I've told staff there will be a party when we sign one million subscribers," says Stephen Grabiner, the head of ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial player, which has put together a 15-channel service.

To provide a visual memory, or at least a photocall, of the digital terrestrial switch-on, Ulrika Jonsson, the television personality, will light up the Crystal Palace transmitter, a sight that should be seen all over London. One reason for the low-key approach is that few people will be able to see the launch-day programmes, as the digital decoders do not go on sale until tomorrow.

Grabiner, the former managing director of *The Daily Telegraph* who went on to run the newspaper end of United News and Media, concedes that the launch schedule for ONdigital has been tight. "One of the first things I did when I came in was to say we



ONdigital's Stephen Grabiner: "We are going to be for the people who want slightly more high-quality television"

would launch in November. Everyone thought I was a lunatic. It was only 11 months from when we got our licence but one by one we've knocked down all the obstacles," says Grabiner.

He refuses to set any targets, other than to try to reach the one million figure — and the party — as soon as possible. Although digital terrestrial cannot offer as many channels as satellite or digital cable, which launches next year, it can offer extra choice through the existing TV aerial.

"We are delivering the best channels in the simplest way," says Grabiner, adding that "Middle England" does not want dozens of channels but ten or so good-quality ones. ONdigital subscribers will have access to eight "free" channels in digital, plus a much faster, more sophisticated version of Teletext, the five

terrestrial channels and ITV 2 — which starts up next month and will not be available on satellite — and two new channels from the BBC, News24 and BBC Choice.

Viewers who opt for only the "free" channels will have to pay the full price of the decoder, almost £400, rather than the subsidised £199 offer. For their first three months, ONdigital subscribers will receive all the "primary" channels for £7.99 a month, channels such as UK Gold, UK Horizons, Sky One, Eurosport, Granada Plus, Carlton Cinema and the five

'Middle England does not want dozens of channels'

Cartoon Network. Subscribers will then be able to choose their six favourite channels for £7.99. Viewers will pay extra for premium channels such as Sky Sports, including Premier League football (News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake in

BSkyB) and the FilmFour subscription channels.

"We are not trying to chase the 30 per cent who are already signed up [to multichannel television], Grabiner says. "All of our marketing is aimed at mainstream TV viewers who want a bit more decent TV: they want ITV and the BBC and they'll probably buy a sport or movie package."

He believes that the competitive world of national newspapers, and the idea that people have a choice and that you have to satisfy the market, has honed his skills. ONdigital estimates that 70 per cent of the country will be able to receive the service at launch, rising to 90 per cent by the end of next year.

But even when digital terrestrial is available, not everyone will be able to receive the entire service. A report published yesterday by Claritas, the market research group, suggested that only 43 per cent of UK households will be able to receive the full service. The study — based on data supplied by the Independent Tele-

vision Commission — identified particular blackspots such as Liverpool, Hull, Coventry and much of Wales.

ONdigital is already finding that engineering predictions are proving conservative, and that people who were not supposed to get a full service are actually doing so now that many channels have been switched on. The system is already showing high-quality pictures and sound.

ONdigital, which is jointly owned by the two biggest ITV groups, Carlton and Granada, has begun poster and newspaper advertising, and the television campaign starts on Sunday, part of a £90 million marketing budget over the next 12 months. Brochures are now being posted to 150,000 people who have called expressing interest.

"We're going to fill the gap of Middle England. We will be for the people who want slightly more high-quality television and want to receive it in a simple way. It's not going to be SkyDigital; it's going to be ONdigital," Grabiner says.

## Mopping up the blood at M&amp;S

MARKS & SPENCER has been regarded, long and deservedly, as a model company. So seeing a boardroom row in M&S, as one journalist put it this week, is like seeing Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hit someone with her handbag.

What we have witnessed recently is a rare display of inelegance from the company, and a reminder that even the best can look like children in the playground at times of pressure. It is also the type of affair instantly described as a PR issue. Well, plainly that is so since the world has been reading about it.

The question of who will succeed Sir Richard Greenbury as chairman and chief executive has been brought into focus because of a set of pressures on M&S's profitability, including what the company calls a "bloodbath" in clothing; but also because it has allowed certain perceptions to gain currency: perceptions of autocracy, of concentration of power, of an "ivory tower" mentality; of clumsy commercial response — and because it has not shown sensitivity in handling predictable external concerns.

The last of these is the PR issue. But we should be confident that M&S will soon restore order, after this chastening reminder that companies, like people, are judged by what they say and how they say it as well as by what they do.

The S in M&S will again stand for success.

■ GARDENING LEAVE is now a familiar phrase to describe the hiatus between a heavy hitter leaving one job

and taking another elsewhere.

So, imagine that a gardener who departed to tend his flowers in early August is now back in action. When he left, the FTSE 100 was around 5,400. Today it is again around 5,400. Seemingly, nothing much has happened (assuming that he has read nothing between times about liquidity crunches, market crashes and the halving of some share prices). But, as this column argued last month, the fundamentals always cut through — and as *The Daily Telegraph* wrote last Saturday, "panicking can damage your wealth".

Well-organised, and with a properly planned presentation, they work extremely well, and it is possible to make the constant travel relatively painless. The real killer is boredom.

■ REGULATION is in the air. Financial PR is not regulated, yet it is a serious business. It is a profession that deals with core strategic advice and market-sensitive communications, and is frequently made a scapegoat for leaks. Everyone else is regulated. We should be, too — and thus benefit from our increased status, which naturally clients will pay more for.

However, debate on the subject could give the impression that we in financial PR do not already have to abide by rules. In fact we are bound by the Stock Exchange Yellow Book, by the Takeover Panel Blue Book — and indeed, by common sense.

■ SECURITY is often central to PR. So confidential

projects have codenames — which is fine, except when you find that you are working on three projects that have independently been given the same codename.

And if you do have a deal party list, the security can be blown when, as in the case of Nestlé's acquisition of Rowntree's, it was headed, "Project X, 1 Nestlé Avenue".

ROADSHOWS are an intrinsic part of flotations and other capital-raising exercises. But they can involve a great deal of travel and a punishing schedule of presentations, meetings, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Well-organised, and with a properly planned presentation, they work extremely well, and it is possible to make the constant travel relatively painless. The real killer is boredom.

The presentation has to be carefully scripted and legally verified, and departure from publicly disclosed information is not on. After the twentieth presentation, the element of fun has completely disappeared — which is why diversions are a welcome temptation on the road.

On one recent venture, four-inch toy Penguins became the roadshow mascot, which is why the US investor, on the other end of the telephone during a roadshow conference call, was puzzled to hear, in the middle of the answer to his question: "My finance director is playing with his Penguin". Apparently he still bought into the offer.

■ The author is a director of Incepta Group and Citigate Dewe Rogerson.



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## CHANGING TIMES



## media times

I was active  
when it  
matteredBSkyB's new chairman backed pay  
TV from the start, says Alan Tillier

The first impression one has of Jérôme Seydoux, 64, is of a relaxed, even self-deprecating French business aristocrat, not an ambitious media tycoon involved across Europe in pay TV and the production and distribution of films — as well as being owner of a French daily newspaper, *Libération*.

Seydoux is the new chairman of BSkyB, where his 17 per cent stake is second only to that of News International, which owns 40 per cent. BSkyB's contribution underpins the profits at Sky's parent, British Sky Broadcasting Group, but he now wants to diversify. He says that the future of Pathé is "brilliant" given the digital TV prospects in Britain and France and the rise in cinema audiences in Europe.

Seydoux was one of the enthusiasts of pay TV in Britain. That was a decade ago, when its operators were losing £10 million a week. He stood by Rupert Murdoch — chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times* through its subsidiary News International — during a difficult period. "I was active when it mattered," he says. When Murdoch asked him this year to step into the chairman's seat, Seydoux replied: "But I am French." To which Murdoch said: "No, you're European."

Seydoux says: "I consider myself a European businessman. I have a good knowledge of Europe, which

is not true of many French businessmen." Seydoux has seen the stake of Pathé in BSkyB, nearly £1.4 billion, grow to exceed that of the market value of his French flagship. Sky's contribution to Pathé has been greater than the company's total net profits. Pathé posted modest profits last year (£22 million) and for the first half of 1998 (£10.7 million). Seydoux wants to change that and is seeking to woo institutions.

He is the least known of the four media giants seeking to build pan-European media empires based on pay TV. The others are Murdoch, Italy's Silvio Berlusconi and Germany's Leo Kirch. Seydoux ticks off the efforts of those going cross border.

Berlusconi in Spain, Murdoch in Germany with Vox, CLT in Germany, France and the Benelux and Canal Plus in ten countries. Although he does not have a direct interest in Canal Plus, the French pay TV channel, he has 20 per cent of CanalSatellite, its digital offshoot. This is losing money but is the leader in France with 1 million subscribers. "It will break even in 2000," says Seydoux. "Sky Digital should be at 1 million subscribers a year from now."

Seydoux shuttles between Paris and London, where he lunches often with Murdoch. This week he was there to outline plans for Pathé's expansion in Europe in pay TV, film financing, distribution and ownership of cinemas. He told investors that Pathé intended to



Euro vision: Jérôme Seydoux, the new chairman of BSkyB, has ambitious plans for his media empire

take advantage of film production possibilities in Britain, where it won a National Lottery film award last year. Pathé Pictures has abandoned the US and will produce 35 films in Britain within six years.

Seydoux was born into the billion-dollar Schlumberger oil equipment dynasty, originally from Alsace. He has two brothers — one of whom runs the rival Gaumont cinema group. Seydoux's personal business interests are estimated by France's *Le Nouvel Économiste* magazine to be from £160 million to more than £360 million. He started in the family's bank and was briefly head of the Schlumberger group before leaving. Seydoux invested in textiles, shipping, an airline, household goods, newspapers and the \$60 million flop of the remake of the film *Lolita* with Jeremy Irons.

Perhaps his biggest setback was in TV with La Cinq, France's first independent channel in the 1980s, launched with Silvio Berlusconi after Seydoux's friend and golf partner, the late President Mitterrand, opened up French TV. The Right returned to government in 1986 and Seydoux was dispossessed. "La Cinq was put into pieces by Chirac [the French President]," he says. But it gave Seydoux a taste for TV and explains his presence with pay TV in Britain. "People said it would fail like the Channel Tunnel and Euro Disney," he says.

Seydoux showed his acumen when he did business with Giancarlo Pirelli, the Italian financier who had sold MGM to the French State bank Crédit Lyonnais, thus setting it on the road to near ruin. Seydoux resisted MGM, but bought Pathé from Pirelli. It enabled him to build an integrated cinema production and distribu-

tion group with Claude Berri, the French director, and Canal Plus. He split his Chateaux group into two — worldwide wool interests and the media — and began concentrating on films, buying TV thematic channels and turning around *Libération*. This week he launched a \$200 million bond issue, exchangeable into BSkyB shares, to finance more multiplex cinemas. He also bought control of the French AB sports pay channel for \$7 million and plans to buy an Italian channel to go with his Voyage channel in France.

His only film this year stars Eric Cantona, but next year comes the \$50 million *Asterix*, based on the cartoon character. Seydoux sees himself as a kind of Asterix, offering protection against US cultural invasion. But he doesn't want to stop American films. Well, he was in on the distribution of *Titanic*.

Carlton upsets  
Lawrence family

THE parents of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence will stop co-operating with a Granada TV reconstruction of the case if a rival ITV programme from Carlton goes ahead.

Broadcast reports that the Lawrence family is upset that the five youths questioned about the murder are to be interviewed in the Carlton documentary, to be aired in January.

Martin Bashir, famous for his BBC *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, is said to have been talking to the five for some months and is likely to be Carlton's presenter. His BBC contract expires this month. The Lawrences have so far worked amicably with Granada, which began shooting this week.

ed to hit an all-time low this Christmas following a summer of poor sales. Discounts on beers bought to take home have started a month earlier than usual, with two-for-one deals being offered by the big names such as Carling, Carlsberg and Heineken. In the pub and bar trade, where the average quoted price of beer is £250, discounts for long-term supply contracts are as much as £120 a barrel.

LVMH-owned Parfums Givenchy has appointed a new managing director, Gilles Dougoud, to oversee the launch of two new fragrances and a new range of cosmetics to be branded with Alexander McQueen's name. The move is considered to be an attempt by Givenchy to rejuvenate its brand, but without alienating its existing customers.

## TRADE

NATIONAL newspaper photographers may be banned from Premier League football grounds tomorrow unless they give the League more control over their pictures, Press Gazette reports.

The League wants to prevent publication of "distorted" pictures of players and officials, such as the notorious image of Graham Taylor as a turnip. The newspapers are resisting any restrictions of the use they make of their own pictures.

HELLO! magazine is under pressure from its rival, OK!, and is looking for a full-time advertising agency for the first time in its ten-year history, Marketing reports.

Although sales of *Hello!* for the first half of this year were well ahead of OK!, by 506,000 to 221,000, it is reported that OK! pulled ahead in September on the strength of a series of Spice Girls exclusives.

GOOD news from Marketing Week. Beer prices are expect-

VIEWERS are losing their taste for feature films on the small screen, according to an analysis in the *Broadcast*. The average audience for the 50 most popular films on TV in the 12 months ending in September was 8.21 million, against 8.85 million the previous year. On Sky's dedicated movie channels, average viewing from January to August was 25 per cent lower than in 1997.

GOOD to see that Bernard Ingham, the feisty former press officer to Margaret Thatcher, has not lost his blunderbuss touch. In his regular column in *PR Week*, he declares that the Labour Government "is now bracketed with second-hand car salesmen in the league table of purveyors of credibility."

He adds: "After 18 months of slavery to Labour's spin-doctors, journalists I talk to are thinking it is time they made a dash for the freedom of cynicism."

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

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# Constructive trust claim fails

# Disclosing compelled evidence

**French v Mason and Another**  
Before Mr Justice Pumfrey  
[Judgment October 23]

For property to be the subject of a constructive trust, it had to come into the hands of the constructive trustee as a result of a breach of fiduciary duty or some other unconscionable dealing.

There was therefore no question of an employee retaining beneficial ownership as against his employer where the employer's title was derived from section 39 of the Patents Act 1977.

Mr Justice Pumfrey held in a reserved judgment allowing an application by the defendant, Paul Julian Mason and Acme Jewellery Ltd, to strike out an allegation in the statement of claim of the plaintiff, Christopher Simon French, that patents 2225925 and 2225976, of which the second defendant was the registered proprietor, were held on constructive trust for him.

Miss Catherine Newman, QC and Mr Jonathan Shaw for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Arnold for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE PUMFREY said that the claim was one aspect of dispute between Mr French and Mr Mason which had its origins in their commercial relationship as manufacturing jewellers.

That relationship had already been the subject of a petition under section 459 of the Companies Act 1985, in which Mr Justice Jacob had held that Mr French, who held 10 per cent of the share capital in Acme Jewellery Ltd, had shown that the affairs of the company had been conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to him and made an order for the purchase of his shares by Mr Mason on a valuation as at July 31, 1992.

Acme, which engaged in the manufacture of jewellery, was incorporated in 1978. Mr French joined the company in 1981 as a sales representative and was successful.

In 1985 Mr French was made a director of Acme and in 1986 Mr Mason, who had provided Acme's initial capital, transferred 2 per cent of his shares in Acme to Mr French as a gift.

From some date after Mr French joined the company until the deterioration in the parties' relationship in the spring of 1991 there had been a relationship of quasi-partnership: see *In re Westbourne Galleries Ltd* (1973) AC 360.

In late 1988 Mr French invented an earring sleeper which was marketed under the name "Invincible", the subject of the disputed patents.

It was not in dispute that at the time the invention was made: (i) Mr French was employed by Acme as a salesman; (ii) he was a director of Acme; and (iii) a relationship akin to partnership existed between Mr French and Mr Mason for which Acme was the vehicle.

By operation of section 39 of the Patents Act 1977, which excluded the operation of any other rule of law, an invention belonged to an employer in two circumstances, and in all other circumstances belonged to the employee.

Those circumstances were: (a) [the invention] was made in the course of the normal duties of the employee or in the course of duties falling outside his normal duties, but specifically assigned to him, and the circumstances in either case were such that an invention might reasonably be expected to result from the carrying out of his duties; or

(b) the invention was made in the course of the duties of the employee and, at the time of making the invention, because of the nature of his duties and the particular responsibilities arising from the nature of his duties he had a special obligation to further the interests of the employer's undertaking.

Property subject to a constructive trust must have come into the hands of the alleged trustee as a result of unconscionable dealing or in breach of a fiduciary obligation.

In a case to which section 39 applied there was no question of the employee retaining beneficial ownership as against his employer. Where that case, the employer would require a licence to work the invention, a possibility not found anywhere in the section.

The existence of a quasi-partnership did not mean that the legal ownership of the invention by Acme was an incident of the relationship between Mr French and Mr Mason. They were not partners.

Mr French's employment commenced before the quasi-partnership, although his directorship did not.

Any special relationship came into existence before the making of the invention and was established without reference thereto. No subsequent relationship could affect the basis upon which Acme owned the invention.

Any claim for a constructive trust was also barred by the rule in *Henderson v Henderson* (1843) 3 Hare 100, 115.

An undertaking given by Mr French in the section 459 proceedings had admitted and acknowledged that the valuation of his shareholding was to be conducted on the basis, inter alia, that Acme owned the invention.

The claim arising out of Mr Mason's conduct vis-à-vis Mr French would clearly affect the basis of the valuation of the company. It therefore should have been resolved at the same time as the claims arising out of Acme's use of the patent.

Solicitors: Jacobsons, Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

British and Commonwealth Holdings plc (in administration) v Barclays De Zoete Wedd Ltd  
Same v Atlantic Computers plc, David McCormick and Others  
Same v Spicer and Oppenheim  
Same v NM Rothschild and Sons Ltd  
Before Mr Justice Neuberger  
[Judgment October 29]

Provided that the test laid down in Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was satisfied, the fact that transcripts contained evidence given under compulsion was no reason for ordering non-disclosure.

Mr Justice Neuberger held in the Chancery Division in a reserved judgment given in chambers when allowing an application by defendants, NM Rothschild and Sons Ltd, for inspection of transcripts of evidence in the possession of the plaintiffs, British and Commonwealth Holdings plc, Barclays De Zoete Wedd Ltd, Atlantic Computers plc, David McCormick and Others, Spicer and Oppenheim, and NM Rothschild and Sons Ltd, that the court should order inspection of the transcripts.

Order 24, rule 13 provides: "No order for the production of any documents for inspection... shall be made... unless the court is of the opinion that the order is necessary either for disposing fairly of the cause or matter or for saving costs".

Mr Nicholas Studden, QC and Mr Andrew Lenon for British and Commonwealth; Mr Peter Simon, QC, Mr Robin Dicker and Miss Helen Davies for BZW; Mr Matthew Collins for Mr McCormick; Mr Michael Harvey, QC and Miss Mary Stokes for Atlantic Computers; Mr Stanley Burnton, QC and Mr Laurence Rabinowitz for Rothschild; Mr Mark Humphries, solicitor, for Spicer and Oppenheim; Mr Guy Newey for the DTI.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that two inspectors were appointed under section 432 of the Companies Act 1985 to investigate the take-over of Atlantic Computers by British and Commonwealth Holdings.

During the course of that investigation the inspectors formally interviewed 112 witnesses. The various parties to the litigation received transcripts of only some of the witnesses who gave evidence and Rothschild applied for inspection of the transcripts in the possession of the other parties.

The transcripts sought by Rothschild contained material which was obtained by witnesses in circumstances which were confidential, pursuant to compulsion.

Under sections 433 to 436 of the 1985 Act any person who was lawfully required by the inspectors to assist them by providing documents or other evidence, must do so; failure to comply amounted to contempt of court.

His Lordship said that in those circumstances there was a powerful argument of saying that the court should not, save in exceptional circumstances, order disclosure of the transcripts in connection with civil proceedings, even when the requirements of various provisions in Order 24 were satisfied.

However, while his Lordship said he was impressed by the "compulsion principle", it was not a course open to him when applying rule 13. In *Wallace Smith Trust v Deloitte Haskins and Sells* (1997) 1 WLR 251, 273 Lord Justice Simon Brown had said:

"...once it is recognised that inspection of the documents may give 'litigious advantage' to the party seeking it then assuming... the test for inspection is not whether the documents are necessary for the party to inspect but whether the party can only properly refuse to disclose it if... it concludes that they would not after all assist him. Confidentiality at this point is frankly immaterial."

It was argued by Mr Collins that those observations were directed to the interrelationship of the compulsion principle and Order 24, rule 13, and not to the interrelationship of the compulsion principle and Order 24, rule 11. Accordingly, when considering whether to order disclosure of the transcripts it was still open to the court to take into account the compulsion principle.

His Lordship rejected that argument on the ground that it effectively involved saying that the view expressed by Lord Justice Simon Brown had to be implicitly qualified by reference to rule 11 or was stated overlooking rule 11.

Moreover, the comments made by Lord Justice Simon Brown that there was no balancing exercise to be performed under rule 13 were difficult to reconcile with Mr Collins' submissions. There was little point in the remarks if the balancing exercise had to be carried out under rule 11 rather than rule 13.

His Lordship said that he had also been asked to address the question of whether it was necessary for him to inspect the transcripts before reaching a decision on disclosure.

In *Wallace Smith Trust v Deloitte Haskins and Sells*, Lord Justice Neil appeared to have taken the view that inspection was appropriate only if, having decided that the provisions of Order 24, rule 13 had been satisfied the court was for some reason minded to refuse disclosure.

On the other hand Lord Justice Simon Brown appeared to have suggested that, once a prima facie case was made out for disclosure, the court would normally inspect the documents and satisfy itself that inspection was necessary.

However, in *Arbuthnot v Fagan* (1996) 2 Lloyd's RLR 143, where there plainly was confidentiality, it appeared that neither the judge, who ordered disclosure, nor the Court of Appeal, who upheld the decision, examined the documents before ordering disclosure.

His Lordship said that the differences between what was said by Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Neil and done by the courts in *Arbuthnot* did not reflect a difference in principle.

In his Lordship's judgment, it could not be right to say that, as a matter of principle, the court must always or must never inspect documents which appeared to satisfy Order 24, rule 13 before ordering their disclosure, where some confidence or the compulsion principle was involved.

Although in general, the court should inspect before it concluded that confidential documents fell within Order 24, rule 13 but nevertheless disclosure should be refused.

In the present case, where the issues between the parties were so complex and the documentation involved ran into eleven thousand pages, it would be a waste of judicial time to carry out an inspection before deciding on disclosure.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Lovell White Durrant; Field Fisher Waterhouse; Cameron McKenna; Ashurst Morris Crisp; Linklaters & Paines Treasury Solicitor.

Maes Finance Ltd & Mac No 1 and Another v Letleys (a firm)  
Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Aldous  
[Judgment July 27]

A judge who ordered that five related actions against solicitors could be tried together had not erred in the exercise of his discretion when he said that he could see no reason why a Chancery Division judge could not form a fair view of each particular case.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Letleys (a firm) against the order of Mr Justice Jacob on October 28, 1997 that five actions should come on for trial at the same time. Letleys submitted that trying the five actions together would be unfair and that the judge had erred in the way he had exercised his discretion under Order 4, rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Iain Hughes, QC and Mr Paul Parker for Letleys; Miss Judith Jackson, QC and Mr Timothy Harry for Maes Finance Ltd & Mac No 1 and Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that all five actions were in mortgages which proved unprofitable. They were claims by the lenders against their solicitors and the borrowers, in respect of alleged negligence, breach of contract and breach of a fiduciary relationship.

The judge concluded that if all five actions were tried together there would be a considerable saving of time and costs. He was of the view that a single trial was the most convenient way to proceed unless it would lead to inappropriate consequences.

He then considered each of the consequences that were said to make such a course inappropriate. The first was that Mr Letley (the former senior partner) who would seem to be an important witness for the defendants, might, if he had to deal in cross-examination in five cases, become muddled. That the judge had rightly rejected.

The second circumstance, which the judge considered to be more significant, concerned the admissibility of evidence. The defendants were entitled to have each case tried and determined upon the evidence admissible to that particular case. If all the actions were tried together, evidence admissible in one action, but not in the other, would be in the mind of the judge with the result that the judge might be prejudiced.

The judge rejected that argument. He referred to *Mood Music Publishing Co Ltd v De Wolfe* (1976) Ch 119, 127 and concluded that the governing principle was that similar fact evidence would be admissible if it was logically probative.

He went on to consider whether it would be oppressive or unfair for the five cases to be tried together and concluded that the suggestion that justice would not be seen to be done if all five cases were tried together was fallacious; and that the interests of justice and the administration of justice required that all the cases be heard together.

His Lordship said that the view expressed by the judge was one that he was entitled to arrive at.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Ms Caroline Mahoney.

Practice Direction (Criminal Justice Act 1987: Crown court centres)  
The place of trial for cases of serious or complex fraud transferred to the crown court with effect from November 1, 1998, to be that specified by the present direction.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, so stated on October 28 in the Supreme Court when handing down a Practice Direction, superseding Practice Direction (Crime: Fraud trials) (No 3) (The Times December 28, 1995; 1993 1 WLR 159; 1993 1 All ER 41; (1992) 96 Cr App R 17).

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that:

1 With the concurrence of

North Eastern: Bradford, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield, Teesside.

Northern: Liverpool, Manchester.

South Eastern: Central Criminal Court, Chelmsford, Harrow, Luton, Maidstone, Middlesex Guildhall, Norwich, Reading, Sharnbrook, Southwark, Wood Green.

Wales and Chester: Cardiff, Chester, Mold, Swansea, Warrington.

Western: Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Truro, Winchester.

3 Practice Direction (Crime: Fraud trials) (No 3) made on December 16, 1992 was hereby revoked.

Trying complex fraud cases

Judge entitled to try five cases together

Constructive trust claim fails

Disclosing compelled evidence

Trying complex fraud cases

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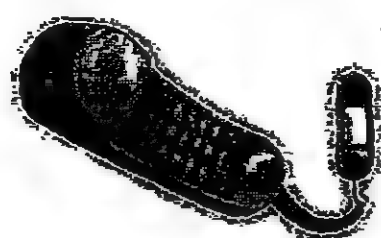
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## CRICKET

# Healy intent on smoothing off his rough edges

THROUGH the five, one-sided series and 28 Test matches since the Ashes last changed hands, two Australians have danced constantly at the bedside of the English patient. Mark Taylor has somehow commanded affection but Ian Healy has inspired irritation, suspicion and only a grudging respect.

In the cricketing culture of heroes and villains, Healy has always worn the black. Indeed it is only now, with 106 caps and a world-record number of dismissals to his name, that perceptions of the Australia wicketkeeper are changing for the better. The way he is going, he will retire with the admiration that he merits.

Yesterday, as the tropical clouds gathered over Cairns and local talk was of early monsoons threatening an England XI's four-day game against Queensland, Healy was nonetheless preparing in his usual way. He had an indoor net, a session on the massage table and then used a laptop computer to study every ball he gloved, or dropped, during the state's most recent match. As ever, nothing if not meticulous.

Along with the trademark characteristics of diligence, energy and feisty single-mindedness, however, features new are evident in Healy. "I think I've mellowed," he said. He goes further, acknowledging with sadness the low opinion of him that was widely broadcast over a number of years. "A lot of images of me have been wrong but perception can become reality. I think I was seen as very aggressive, very blokey, very mouthy. A high percentage of that was inaccurate but no one was willing to get to know me better, they were just happy to go on projecting it. My rawness had rough edges. I know that, but we weren't a confident team in my early days. I was trying to please the team, not the people. I can see both sides now, and these days we've got a team that simply needs me to be decisive, not the prickly, combative character I was."

He has not suddenly become a pussycat but perhaps he was never the snarling Doberman, either, just tough and durable with a desire to win that occasionally trespassed into areas of offence. I suggested that his on-field integrity was sometimes questioned

## Alan Lee talks to Australia's combative but mellowing wicketkeeper

and he responded levelly. "You're telling me that and I don't disbelieve it, because it was two years before I even realised I was being bagged for over-appealing."

Healy came into cricket from a daunting background — teaching physical education in a high school south of Brisbane. "It was rough," he recalled. "People think it's easy teaching outdoors but the kids have got no walls there." He had a brief, radical career change, into selling women's fashions, before turning professional after his first Ashes series, in 1989.



Healy: wicketkeeper supreme

By then, he had suffered feelings of inadequacy during his debut tour of Pakistan. "I was the sixth wicketkeeper they'd tried in the four years since Rod Marsh packed up. I was raw, overawed and insecure. I couldn't quite work out why I was there." Quite a contrast with his most recent return to Pakistan for a series in which he broke Marsh's dismissals record and helped Australia to their first win in the sub-continent for 29 years.

"It was good to be part of a team that wasn't scared of being there," he said. "When I first went, we were expecting too many bad things from the umpires, the pitches or the food. Now, we turn every situation into a positive."

Healy is reluctant to add his voice to the organic nationalism preceding this series — one newspaper yesterday claimed that the second-best team in the world was Australia A — and he disputed the popular cry that it is becoming boring for Australians to beat England. "I've always prepared for tough series against England and I feel the same way about this one. I look at their team on paper and I feel it should be very even. It can never be monotonous playing against England."

If anything has increased recognition of Healy's skills, it is the way that he has kept wicket to Shane Warne. "Shane has allowed me to showcase what I can do. It has been a constant challenge but I've risen to it so my profile has improved. Warne has helped wicketkeeping as well as spin bowling."

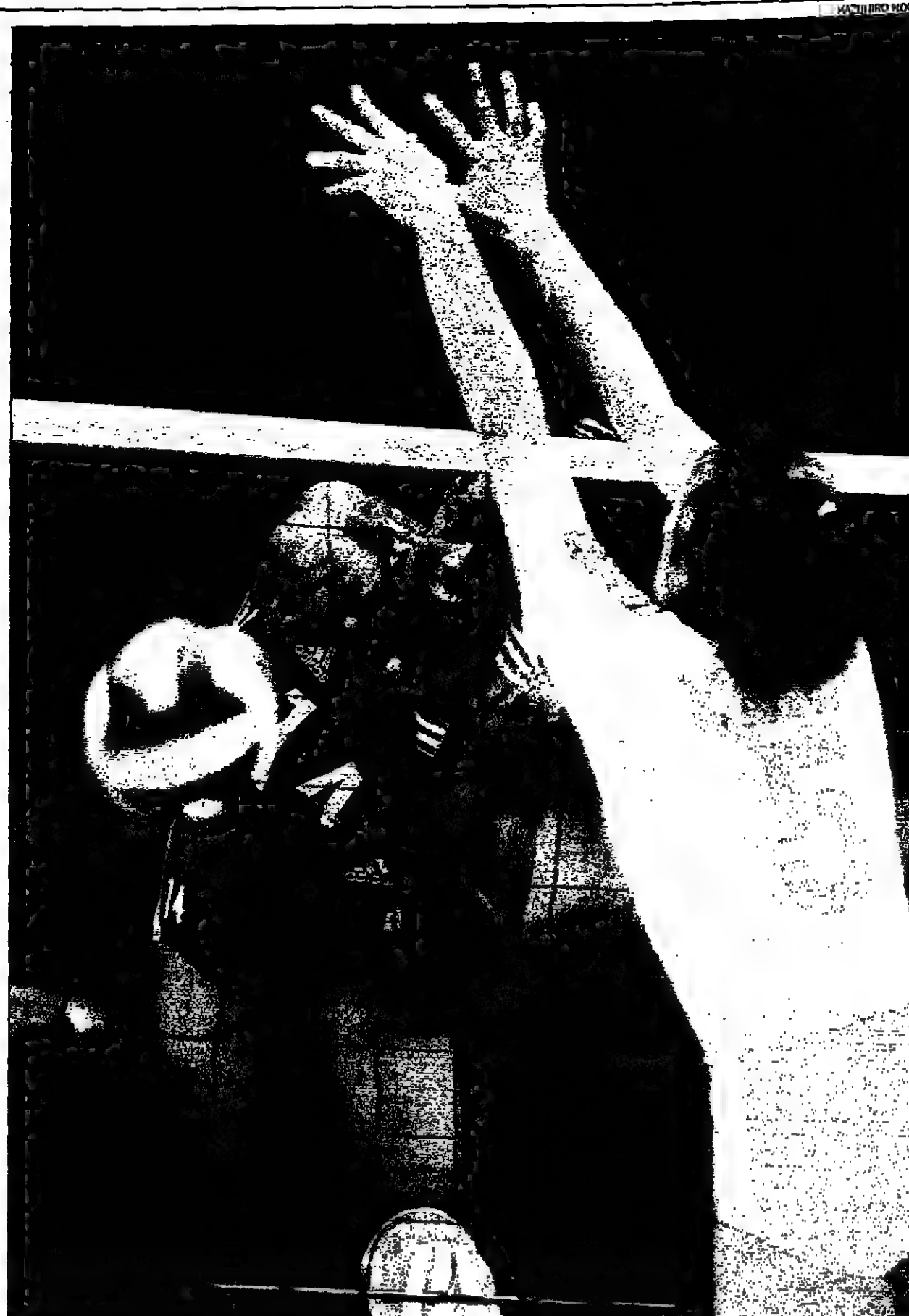
"We will be starting this series without him and it leaves a psychological hole. I don't think we will ever properly fill it. But we have got to try."

This realistic attitude is typical of Healy. Since he studied sports science, when in teacher training, he has kept careful and comprehensive diaries detailing every day of his career. They do not spare him, nor do they spare others. "If you are lying to yourself, it's a waste of time. Honesty is a crucial part of team success."

The diaries are littered with quotations that have struck him as apposite. When he toured the Caribbean seven years ago, he had just watched the film *Bodyguard*, and busily noted the words: "If you eliminate the fear of death, you can become invincible." He maintains that saying helped him when batting against the fast bowlers.

In later years, he has become a tall, lanky figure to the Australia team. He is first into training sessions and last to leave, he personally designed the striped blazers that have become the team uniform and, of right, he leads the singing after a Test victory.

By his own admission, he is thorough almost to the point of obsessiveness. At 34, he confessed: "I'm aware of what is expected from a senior player but I don't always like it. I'd rather finish as I started, doing everything to the full. I don't even like having two or three beers and then stopping. It's none or a gutful."



Ana Fernandez smashes a winner as Cuba confirm their status as the top team in women's volleyball by retaining the world championship title with a 3-0 win over China in the final in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. Cuba won by 15-4, 16-14, 15-12 and except for their new, side-tight strip, little had changed in the two

years since the countries met at the Olympic final in Atlanta, where the Cubans prevailed by the same 3-0 scoreline. China, who landed successive world titles in 1982 and 1986, meekly surrendered the opening set but offered more resistance in the second and third. They looked as if they might make a real fight

of it when opening a 10-4 lead in the third set, but were unable to press home their advantage. The Cubans also reaped most of the individual awards, including that for the world's best player, which went to Regla Torres Herrera, along with a cheque for \$100,000. Russia won the bronze medal by beating Brazil.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Trinity make it third time lucky

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WAKEFIELD TRINITY, the first division champions, yesterday won over the independent franchise panel at the third time of asking and will join the new Gateshead Thunder outfit in an expanded 14-team JJB Super League competition from next March.

The panel originally recommended rejection of Wakefield's application, then withheld a final decision to consider further details about Wakefield's business plan — the basis for its approval.

It is the first time that promotion of a club had been assessed against minimum standards criteria.

"The thorough and professional approach adopted has been longer than everyone had hoped, but we can confidently go forward now," Ted Richardson, the Wakefield chairman, said.

Before a proposed move to a new stadium, near the M1, by 2000, Wakefield are to spend £250,000 on temporary improvements to their Belle Vue ground and switch televised matches to Barnsley Football Club. There will be no extra levy on existing Super League clubs as there is to help fund Gateshead.

The panel, while satisfied ultimately that Wakefield meet the majority of requirements laid down by the Rugby League Council, doubted in its original recommendation whether a small business operating at a modest profit had the capacity to expand to the required level without "dangerous destabilisation".

The Super League has already overseen the closure of Oldham Bears and Paris Saint-Germain, while Workington have dropped back to the second division. The re-introduction of relegation for one club next season will put an even greater onus on Wakefield, who, unlike Gateshead, must operate within the overseas quota.

Wakefield's addition even up the numbers next season, removing the need for byes.

In an increase from 23 games at present, the 14 clubs will meet each other home and away and play four additional fixtures in a 30-match programme before the play-offs.

## SWIMMING

## Games heroes face long winter haul

By CRAIG LORD

ENGLAND'S four Commonwealth Games champions will be put to the test as they begin their winter race programmes at the Speedo British Grand Prix in Wolverhampton this weekend.

The event takes on added significance because it offers the last chance for British swimmers to qualify for the European short-course championships, to be held in Sheffield next month.

The four English swimmers who managed to conquer the mighty Australians at the Games in Malaysia, Susan Rolph, Katy Sexton, James Hickman and Mark Foster, are already assured of places in Sheffield.

But many who competed at the Games must prove themselves afresh at the start of what is an exceptionally busy winter race programme.

Beyond the domestic grand prix and European short-course championships, there

are the national championships and 12 rounds of the World Cup before the season culminates in the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next spring. Paul Palmer, Britain's best swimmer in recent years, is still not ready to return to top competition after suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome in the summer.

Chris Martin, the American coach who has headed the City of Birmingham team for two seasons, has been appointed national coach to Scotland.

Martin, 38, had been tipped for the post of head coach at the swimming division of the United Kingdom Sports Institute in Sheffield.

However, he said that there were "too many political problems" related to the job and was disappointed that Birmingham was not being considered more seriously as a candidate for a centre of excellence for swimming.

## SAILING

## MacArthur goes battling on through adversity

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ELLEN MacARTHUR, of Great Britain, is experiencing the hardest single-handed sailing of her career as she pilots Pete Goss's Open 50, *Aqua Quorum*, now renamed *Kingfisher*, through a succession of unpleasant Atlantic depressions in the opening stages of the Route du Rhum race.

However, despite the tough conditions, MacArthur, 22, is continuing to perform well. Yesterday, *Kingfisher* was the leading 50th monohull in the race and was holding eighth place overall in the monohull fleet with seven much more powerful Open 60s ahead of her and five astern.

But MacArthur's battle with *Kingfisher*, and, indeed, the opposition, is being made far harder than need be because of the absence of roller-furling gear on the headsails.

Her distressing experiences over the past three days underline not only what a hard nut Goss must be to have worked this system through the South-

ern Ocean, but also how much more difficult he made life for himself by not installing a relatively straightforward and reliable system, on which most single-handers rely.

MacArthur's rivals can shorten sail in minutes from

storm jib, I got whipped — mega bruises — and then, as the deck threw itself up at me, I caught my leg under the spinaker pole and whacked my head hard on the forestay and hanks. Instant swelling the size of a golf ball," she reported.

MacArthur is ploughing on. She continues to drive herself to the limits, but five of the 35 skippers who set out from St Malo on Sunday for the 4,000-mile race to Guadeloupe have now retired. The leader yesterday was Catherine Chabaud, of France, in *Whirlpool Europe 2*, who was 120 miles ahead of *Kingfisher*.

MacArthur: hurt in squall

## Cork handed empty Cup

DOMINIC CORK'S ambitions of playing in the World Cup next summer seem destined for disappointment. So, too, do those of Nasser Hussain, Mark Ramprakash and Alastair Brown after their omission from a provisional, 23-strong squad for the triangular one-day series in Australia starting in January.

Cork has never quite matched performance to potential in limited-overs cricket, but he is the most pointed absentee. Hussain, who deeply desires a regular place in the one-day team, will be dismayed by his rejection but the most pertinent decision is to reject Brown, or rather his cavalier style as an opening batsman, in favour of the more conventional approach of Michael Atherton.

There are two uncapped selections, in Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells, and John Crawley has also been offered a window to the World Cup. Although Warren Hegg is

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS

among the 23, David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, specified that "a part-time wicketkeeper, such as Crawley, could be deemed sufficient cover for Alec Stewart when the squad is reduced to a maximum of 18 next month."



Cork rejected

Adam Hildrew is retained in the party, despite ludicrous media speculation that he would be banished for a joke, if ill-advised, drug-based remark after England's elimination from the ICC tournament in Bangladesh.

Naturally, he will be accompanied by Ben, his younger brother, who was a night coming to terms with the fact that he faces at least another three weeks in Australia before he will have the chance to justify his inclusion in the Ashes party.

Hildrew was fit for selection for the four-day game against Queensland today, having recovered from a pulled groin muscle, but he did not even feature in a squad of 12 named here last night.

"We want to give the more experienced players more cricket," Graham Gooch, the tour manager, explained, "but I am very aware it is tough on the lad."

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## Ferguson keeps plenty in reserve

BY KEVIN EASON

THE prospect of playing a reserve side for a place in the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup would normally brighten George Graham's day. An appearance at Wembley, something that he achieved in his first season in charge of Arsenal, would provide a welcome boost for the new Tottenham Hotspur manager and supporters who have endured a barren spell since the FA Cup victory of 1991.

Except that the reserves that Spurs will face come from Manchester United, who remain favourites to claim a place at Wembley despite the fact that Alex Ferguson is refusing to field his first-team regulars in the competition. Ferguson, the United manager, is determined to stand by his second-string players, partly because it gives him an opportunity to rest his first-choice players, who have a gruelling schedule of four games in 11 days around the time of the visit to White Hart Lane on December 2.

A reserve side that can boast Jordi Cruyff and Ole Gunnar Solskjær will still be feared by

### QUARTER-FINALS

Wimbledon v Chelsea  
Tottenham v Alan White  
Sunderland v Luton  
Leeds v Blackburn

ⓧ This to be played week commencing November 30.

Graham's men, according to Ferguson. "They will play against Tottenham. We have said what our policy is and we want to do well. We will pick a team which we think will win, but also using my pool to its utmost advantage," he said.

"That particular week is quite a difficult one for us because we have a Sunday game against Leeds, then a game against Aston Villa and then Bayern Munich the week after that. If you ask our fans which team I should play against Tottenham, I think they will tell you all right."

The draw for the last eight guarantees the appearance of one Nationwide League team in the semi-finals with Sunderland, who beat Everton on penalties, facing Luton Town, of the second division, at the Stadium of Light.

Chelsea have also been brought back to reality after demolishing Arsenal 5-0, drawing Wimbledon in the quarter-finals. They played what amounted to a scratch Arsenal side on Wednesday night, but a sterner test awaits them at Selhurst Park where Wimbledon will be keen to exploit the money-making potential of making further progress in the competition.

Meanwhile, Leicester City, who beat Wimbledon in the semi-finals in 1997, are lining up a Wembley return. They face Blackburn Rovers, who put their Premiership struggles behind them by beating Newcastle United on penalties, at Filbert Street.

## Minnows travel to Fulham hoping to take a leaf out of United's book

# Leigh's army dreaming of glory

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THERE will be a southbound exodus from the metropolitan borough of Wigan this week-end but, in a rare switch of allegiance, few will bother to stop off in Watford for the conclusion of the rugby league international series. Instead, they will make for Fulham's Craven Cottage ground, consumed with expectation for what is the biggest match in the memory of Leigh RMI football club.

That statement is, perhaps, a little cheeky, for Leigh have

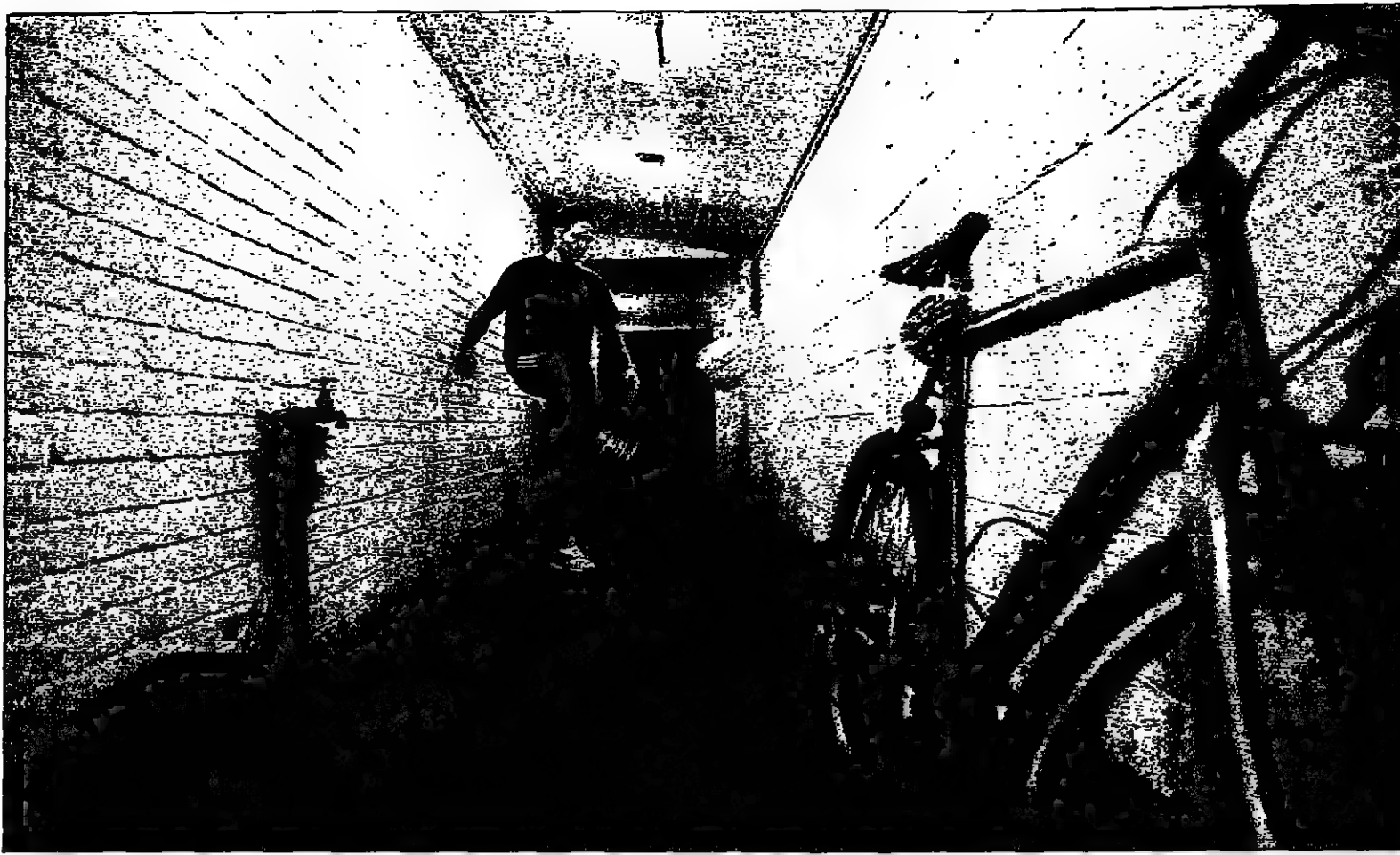


only been in existence for 3½ years but, in truth, it could also apply to their 109-year history as Horwich RMI. In 1995, with no future for them in Horwich, they changed their name, address and, to an extent, their identity.

The immediate result of the move was relegation further into the abyss of non-league football. Moreover, the six-mile relocation took them from the football-friendly environs of Bolton to the rugby enclave of Wigan.

That is why their FA Cup first-round date with Fulham, on Sunday, is so important. Leigh have since regained their position in the Unibond League premier division and are again one consistent season away from reaching the Football Conference, but interest around the town has remained focused on the oval ball.

The imbalance will swing in their favour this time, though, for upwards of 2,000 people will travel with them to Fulham. Alan Robinson, Leigh's secretary, said: "It is a major breakthrough for us, and it is



Whealing, formerly with Blackburn Rovers, prepares for the FA Cup tie at Fulham on Sunday in the less-glamorous surroundings of Leigh RMI

difficult to comprehend the level of interest and excitement we've been attracting recently.

"The club had to move from Horwich, mainly because the pitch at Grundy Hill did not meet Football Association limitations — it was like a ski slope. We have struggled to settle down at Hillon Park, and the crowds of around 300 have been very disappointing, but this is the day we have been praying for."

"The supporters' club has never worked so hard but, of course, they have a product to sell now. That is the power of

the FA Cup and we just hope everyone keeps coming back when all this fuss has died down."

Fulham, of the Nationwide League second division, need not fear the giant-killing pedigree of Leigh. As Horwich, they reached the first round on two occasions, in 1928 and 1982, losing to Scarborough and Blackpool respectively.

Perhaps Leigh can summon up some of the Cup tradition of a club that was once their neighbours. The initials RMI stand for Railway Mechanics Institute, relating to the days when Horwich was the main

site for maintenance on the Lancs and Yorks railway. That site was originally at Newton Heath, which spawned two clubs: Leigh, via Horwich, was one, Manchester United the other.

Had fate, or Roy Hodgson, not conspired against him, Anthony Whealing, the 22-year-old Leigh left back, could have been playing for Blackburn Rovers against United at Old Trafford on Saturday. Released by Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, over the summer, Whealing had trouble finding another professional club and is holding on

to the meeting with Fulham as a way of attracting belated attention from league managers.

Whealing will not be daunted by Craven Cottage. As an understudy to Graeme Le Saux at Blackburn, he was involved in the Champions' League campaign, earning a place on the Blackburn bench for the match away to Spartak Moscow. "It was an amazing experience," he said. "I'll never forget it, although not many people do, because that was the match when Le Saux and David Batty came to blows on the pitch."

Disillusioned. Whealing

stopped playing after leaving Blackburn, an early retirement prevented only by the persuasive powers of Gerry Luczka, the assistant manager at Leigh.

The FA Cup itself was on display at Leigh's training session last night, for all those new fans to admire. And if Waywell can outfox another big-name manager in Kevin Keegan on Sunday, the consequences for Leigh are unthinkable. "That would get us universal acceptance back home," Robinson said. "In fact, I don't think we'd be able to cope with the attention."

## Hendrie sets sights on another golden goal

Nick Szczepanik hears the manager of Tamworth reminisce about a giant-killing and dream of a family reunion

WHEN the draw for the first round of the FA Cup was made, those with long memories were struck by the fact that paired Manchester City with Halifax Town at Maine Road tonight. Their thoughts went back to the third round on January 5, 1980, at The Shay, when City, then in the old first division, lost to Halifax, of the fourth division — a result that was generally regarded as the low point of Malcolm Allison's second spell as City manager.

Paul Hendrie, the scorer of the only goal that day, will, no doubt, be taking note of events in Manchester, but he also has a cup-tie of his own to think about. He now manages Tamworth, of the Dr Martens League premier division, who take on Exeter City, of the Nationwide League third division, at the Lamb Ground tomorrow.

Nevertheless, Hendrie, who runs an industrial cleaning business, recalled his winner against City with fondness. It came in the 75th minute of a match played in difficult conditions. "Andy Stafford crossed, John Smith laid it off and I was support-

ing from midfield," he said. "I timed the run right. Joe Corrigan came out and I hit it into the bottom corner."

"I've had ups and downs in the FA Cup. When I was with Birmingham City, I was sub in the FA Cup semi-final against Fulham at Hillsborough and I played in the replay. Fulham scored the winner so late that they were announcing on the Tannoy the details for ticket allocations for the second replay at Highbury. Without doubt, the goal against City is the best cup memory I've had. It will always stick in my mind."

The two clubs are separated by only 18 league places today, but it is worth recalling that in 1980, City, although in the middle of a sticky patch when they went to Halifax, were fixtures in the top division and reached the FA Cup Final the next season, losing to Tottenham Hotspur after a replay.

"Of course City were a high-pro-

file club," Hendrie said. "They'd signed Steve Daley for £1.5 million, and we were in the old fourth division." So George Kirby, the Halifax manager, went to unusual lengths to even the odds. "He brought in a hyp-



Hendrie plans to outwit Exeter

notist, someone called Romark, from London, who was supposed to have a curse on Malcolm Allison."

If nothing so exotic, Hendrie has plans for the game tomorrow against Exeter. "We had them watched on Saturday, and my assistant went to see them at Rochdale on Tuesday." Predictions? "No. We'll just go out there and give it our best shot."

He is sure of one thing, however — that his side will take Exeter on for skill, rather than try to muscle them out of their game. "I don't encourage kick and rush. I like to get it down and play. There's no sense in changing our tactics and the type of players I've brought in don't play that way," Hendrie said. One of his most experienced players, Tim Steele, is a former Exeter man.

"We're looking forward to it. The one thing a league club doesn't want is to be drawn away to a non-league

club and while Exeter are quite strong at home, their away record isn't that good. And they will be up against a partisan crowd. Our supporters are very loud and could play a big part."

A win over league opposition would push those Manchester City memories hard, but there is one further possibility that could eclipse even that magic moment in 1980. Should Tamworth reach the third round, there is the chance that Hendrie could face his son, Lee, the mid-field prodigy at Aston Villa.

"He's a different sort of player, although I've nursed him along and guided him in what I thought were the right ways," his father said. And it is not just in playing style that the two have differed. "I played for Birmingham, he plays for Villa. I played for Scotland Under-18s and he's got his England caps."

But the two might, just might, find themselves in opposition if the right balls should come out of the bag. "Lee has mentioned it too," Hendrie said. "It would be lovely to draw Villa — a dream come true."

### HOCKEY

## Havant pitch in for cup contests

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

HAVANT will ensure that their new dual-colour, artificial turf pitch is given a thorough work-out when they stage two third-round matches in the English Hockey Association Cup on Sunday. The women take on Slough and are followed by the men, who entertain Reading.

The latter is one of three ties that pair clubs from the National League premier division. Guildford and Old Loughborough will clash at Broadwater School, Godalming. Ian Jennings, the Guildford player-coach, relies on Hall, Sampson and Fox in attack and Old Loughborough will pin hopes on Smith and Thompson for their goals. Cannock, the holders, entertain Beeston, who they beat 4-1 in the final at Milton Keynes last season.

Saltgate, with a surplus of talent, will be fielding a reserve side for the away match against Firebrands, but the appointment of Todd Williams as captain and the return of Soma Singh after injury, should provide enough experience to carry them through.

The premier division match between Cannock and Reading should be the highlight of a full National League programme tomorrow.

In the women's national league, Hightown are fast ac-

quiring a reputation as the draw specialists, with five out of five, including holding the champions, Slough. They will be happy enough with another point from Ipswich, the leaders, tomorrow.

Tina Cullen, the Hightown, England and Great Britain striker, said: "Ipswich are the form side and although our squad has improved beyond all recognition this season, the experience of playing against a quality team should help them learn some of the tricks of the trade."

Cullen, who is the league's all-time leading goalscorer, Carolyn Reid, the goalkeeper, and the former England and Great Britain captain, Linda Carr, in midfield, form the backbone of the Hightown squad. The schoolgirl internationals, Annalisa Bishop, Nicky O'Donnell, Kate Hendrick and the Welsh sisters, Kate and Rachel, represent the future of the club.

"Finishing in the top four and qualifying for the playoffs is our priority," Cullen said. "Our results have shown we can compete against the best."

Lucy Youngs, who has a foot injury, is the only doubt for an Ipswich side unbeaten under Nick Thompson, their new coach.

### TENNIS: VICTORY FOR HENMAN TODAY WILL CONFIRM PLACE IN ATP TOUR FINALS

## Rusedski holds right course

GREG RUSEDSKI moved within touching distance of the ATP Tour championship in Hanover when he defeated Vincent Spadea, of the United States, in the second round of the Scanla Open in Stockholm yesterday.

In a carbon-copy of his opening-round defeat of Tommy Haas on Wednesday, Rusedski raced away with the first set before encountering greater resistance. He needed five match points before finally subduing Spadea, who is one of the most improved players on the circuit this year.

The Hanover race comes to a head for Rusedski and Tim Henman today. Victory for Henman, who plays Magnus

By JULIAN MUSCAT  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

Gustafsson, of Sweden, would book his place in the eight-man final. Rusedski plays Daniel Nestor, of Canada, in another quarter-final in which victory for the No 4 seed, who has won more indoor matches than any other player this year, would require him to win his semi-final on Saturday to clinch his berth.

Rusedski's passage to Hanover was eased considerably when Pete Sampras, his projected semi-final opponent in Stockholm, was beaten in the first round by Jason Stoltenberg, of Australia. Rusedski became the first British player

reach the Hanover finals last year, when injury forced his withdrawal at the round-robin stage. Britain has never had two representatives in the tournament, which has prize-money of \$3.3 million.

Both hold healthy leads over the pursuing Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia. Kafelnikov is engaged in Moscow this week, where he must win the tournament and hope that either Rusedski or Henman slips up to claim a place in Hanover.

Inactive yesterday, Kafelnikov, who is himself under pressure from Goran Ivanisevic, today plays Guillaume Raoux, of France, for a semi-final place.



Rusedski: straight-sets win

### BOWLS: ENGLAND RETURN TO ACTION LOOKING TO CONFIRM QUARTER-FINAL PLACE

## Champions enjoy strong position

ENGLAND, the defending champions, lead the section A league table after seven out of 11 rounds of the Masefield Hong Kong international classic pairs here at Kowloon and appear certain to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Andy Wills and Stuart Airey were invited to represent England in the classic in 1996, after a succession of high-profile players had turned in disappointing performances, and won the triples that year, followed by the pairs last year. Returning to the green after a rest day, they take on Australia. Kowloon Cricket Club and the

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES  
IN HONG KONG

local Club de Recreo today, and complete their round-robin programme against Craigengower Cricket Club tomorrow.

South Africa, who are hoping to appear in their fifth successive final, lead section B, one point ahead of New Zealand, with Ireland in fourth place. Wales have an outside chance of finishing in the top four in section A, but Scotland's hopes of qualifying for the last eight appear to be slim, as they are at present lan-

guishing in eighth place in the section B table.

The overseas players all agree that the standard of the local teams is improving. Kowloon, Craigengower and the official representatives of the Hong Kong Bowling Association are all in line for places in the knockout stage.

MANUEL HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC PAIRS: Section A: 1, England 129; 2, Australia 111; 3, Craigengower CC 10; 4, Hong Kong 9; 5, Wales 8; 6, New Zealand 7; 7, Kowloon CC 6; 8, Ireland 5; 9, Zimbabwe 4; 10, Victoria 3; 11, HKPCA 2; 12, Club de Recreo 1. Section B: 1, South Africa 12; 2, New Zealand 11; 3, Kowloon CC 9; 4, Ireland 8; 5, HKPCA 6; 6, Channel Islands 5; 7, Canada 4; 8, Scotland 3; 9, Sri Lanka 2; 10, HKPCA 1; 11, Fingert CC 0; 12, HKPCA 0.

### EQUESTRIANISM

## Whitaker takes steps to recover

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BERLIN

JOHN WHITAKER underlined his rapid recovery from his fall from Hunter's Level in Vienna when he and his young Russian-bred stallion, Steps, Helsinki, won the opening event, a speed class at the Berlin international show yesterday.

Although still sporting a cut above his right eye and nursing a bruised shoulder, Whitaker's bold riding in the confined space of the Velodrome Arena relegated Alois Pollmann-Schweckhorst, of Germany, on Apero, to second place by 0.13sec. Thomas Voss, another German, who had led for the first half of the class for 7 and 8-year-old horses, finished third on Clinton.

Clearly delighted at this timely filip to his fortunes, Whitaker was full of praise for his young black stallion, which he bought in Norway 18 months ago. "He's definitely one for the future. He's got a good jump, a good temperament and he can cover the ground," he said.

Steps Helsinki had indicated his potential at Hickstead this summer, where he won a class in the outside arena and was also placed in the grade B event. This is only his second show abroad. Whitaker, in common with the other leading riders, welcomed the addi-

tion of these classes to the schedule. "It means you can bring on a young horse while still competing with your main string," he said.

Frustratingly, his main horse here, Amber du Montois, whom he hopes to jump in the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, has a heel infection. Whitaker is hoping that he will recover in time but as a precaution he gave Virtual Village Welham, a warm-up in the Eternit Prize.

The 18-year-old gelding on which, ironically, Whitaker had a bad fall in the qualifier here last year, completed a careful clear round in the class won by Gilbert Bockmann, of Germany.

Di Lampard, whose eleventh place at the world championships in Rome last month was the best performance by a British competitor, was again the best of the four Britons in the Eternit Prize, finishing tenth of the 52 starters on Audacity. Geoff Billington had the penultimate fence down on Niko and Michael Whitaker. John's younger brother, collected 1.25 time faults on Ashley.

RESULTS: Auro Cup: 1, Steps Helsinki (J. Whitaker), GB 0 in 54.30; 2, Apero (A. Bockmann), Ger 0, 54.50; 3, Pollmann-Schweckhorst (G. Bockmann), Ger 0, 55.01; Eternit Prize: 1, Bockmann (G. Bockmann), Ger 0, 47.95; 2, P. Voss (D. Voss), Ger 0, 48.75; 3, G. Billington (M. Whitaker), GB 0, 49.79.









Ice pack: Hodges, right, is given some useful advice by Bureiko and Serova, her husband-and-wife Russian coaches, at Romford ice rink

## Britain hopes for new ice age

Figure skating carries an image of perfect young women and, while two of the entrants in the senior national championship tonight at Milton Keynes are far from perfect, they are certainly young.

Vikki Hodges and Jennifer Holmes are 14 and come into the event with everything to gain. Internationally, they are still regarded as juniors, but have chosen to make their senior debuts nationally this year and, in doing so, will be competing against skaters of greater age and experience.

Neither girl is tipped to win — although the possibility should not be ruled out — and, ironically, if either were to triumph they would be too young to compete at the European championships in January and the subsequent world championships. However, with the National Ice Skating Association (NISA) laying down a criteria of four different triple jumps for selection, it is possible that no one else will go, either.

The last time a British woman qualified to skate the free programme in a European championship was Charlene Von Sayer, an import from the United States, in 1994. Stephanie Main, who is entered this week, qualified for the 1996 world championships, but the 1997 and 1998 events did not contain one British woman and many see Hodges and Holmes as the only bright spots on a gloomy horizon.

Hodges, who trains at Romford ice rink with Yuri Bureiko and Marina Serova, a husband-and-wife team from Russia, was born the day Torvill and Dean won their Olympic gold medal — February 14, 1984. "I suppose that was an omen," she said. "But it

### Angela Court on the high expectations for two 14-year-olds in the national championships

was another five years before I took to the ice and I've hardly been off it since." Having finished thirteenth in the British junior championships last year, Hodges has no qualms about making a premature transition to seniors. She recently landed three triple jumps in an international in Germany and plans to perform five in her free programme tomorrow.

"I need to do seniors to push me," she said. "Competing abroad has made me realise that some junior skaters in other countries are better than our seniors. If I want to be a serious competitor I have to be prepared to skate against the best in this country first."

Bureiko, a former junior world silver medal-winner, has worked with Hodges for 18 months. His strict methods of teaching are not always popular with those not dedicated to the sport, but he said: "If you don't aim to be first, then take up drawing or something else. Why train and compete if you don't want to win?" He described Hodges as talented, but said that the hard work has only just begun.

"I told Vikki's parents when she came to me that my way would mean extreme hard work," he said. "I said there would be tears and times when she'd be very upset, and we've seen those times. Success in this sport does not come easy. She is now learning

what hard work is and knows that her efforts before didn't even come close."

Holmes won the British junior championship last year and is also working hard. She lives in Prestwick, Ayrshire, and has a three-hour round trip several times a week to Murrayfield to train with Alice Fell, her coach. The rest of the week is divided between two rinks near her home, where she practises alone. "Jennifer is very motivated," Fell said. "I can leave her to work alone and know she'll do it. She may only be 14 but she has a training plan and sticks to it. There's no messing around."

With four triple jumps planned for her free programme, Holmes is eager to make her senior debut. "I'll give me more experience," she said. "I am a little nervous, but then you need some nerve to drive you. I just want to do my best here and see what happens."

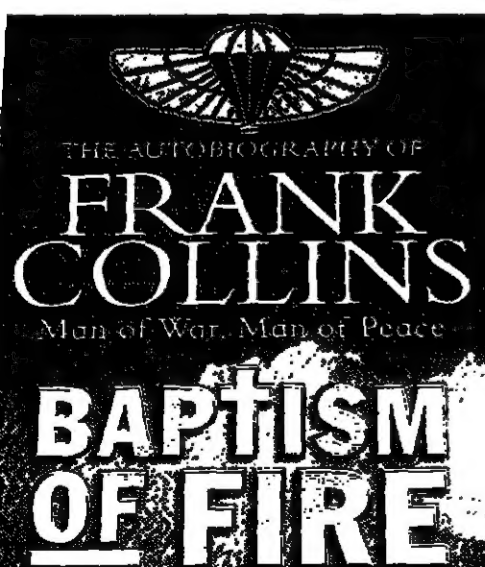
Fell knows that this is a good time for Holmes to advance to senior level. "Her free programme is ambitious, but there's no pressure on her and in many ways that makes it easier," she said. "Anyway, she has to do the triple jump internationally, so why not then here?"

Kevin Bursey, the NISA national performance director, described Hodges and Holmes as the future of British women's skating. "In the past, our ladies have suffered from self-doubt, and a lack of technical ability," he said. "Both girls are technically competent and competitive. More importantly, they want to win, which is a major factor. If you're not hungry for success you may as well hang up your skates."



Holmes keeps smiling while she trains on a rink near her Prestwick home

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OUT NOW IN CORGI PAPERBACK

## Graham forced into an early retirement

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HEROLD GRAHAM, Britain's best boxer ever to have won a world title, has retired.

Graham, 39, was due to meet David Starie, of Ipswich, for the vacant British super-middleweight championship on November 21, but decided to quit yesterday after his optician told him that he risked blindness if he boxed again.

Graham said: "He looked and looked again — when that happens they know something is wrong. It is likely to be a detached retina and will need surgery."

John Morris, Secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "I am glad it was Herold who took the decision and not us. But he

has gone out at the highest level."

Graham started his campaign 20 years ago, winning the British, European and Commonwealth light-middleweight championships before moving up to middleweight, where he won the British and European championships.

He had 54 contests of which he lost only six, three of them being for the world title. Kevin Lueshing has been cleared to box for the vacant British welterweight championship against Nicky Thurbin. There were doubts earlier this week about Lueshing's brain scan, but the board's neurological specialists passed him fit yesterday.

### WORD-WATCHING

#### MARAGING

(a) A simple heat treatment very effective with steels, particularly those with high nickel content, eg 18 per cent. It gives strength and toughness as required, for example, cases for solid rocket propellant motors, deep submerged pressure vessels, flexible gimbals. You heat to about 820°C, then cool and anneal. Then harden by heating to 450-510°C. It takes from three to six hours.

#### XERYUS

(c) An oriental male fragrance made by perfumes of Firmenich, by Givendy in 1986, to complement Ysis. Its top notes are citrus; bergamot and grapefruit. The middle register is floral and spicy; jasmine, violet, cinnamon, sandalwood.

cypress and coriander. The base is musk, amber, frankincense and leather.

#### MOHA

(b) A Buddhist term meaning illusion or the erroneous view of things, characteristic of the person whose posture is unenlightened.

#### FURFURAL

(c) An organic compound derived from the treatment of bran with dilute acid. It is a powerful solvent for removing undesirable components from lubricating oils.

Answer to Winning Move 1... Qg3+; 2. h3g3 Bf2+; 3. Kd2e1Q+; 4. Kd3 Qd1+; 5. Kc4 Qd4+ and Black will emerge with a decisive material advantage.

### Gardening Neighbours

BBC2, 8.30pm

Kenbourne Grove in suburban Sheffield is the location for the latest garden makeover series, which dispenses with Alan Titchmarsh-led hit squads and lets the residents do most of the work themselves. There is, however, expert help available from the Dubliner Diarmuid Gavin, of Home Front in the Garden, and Ali Ward, a former model who is now a garden designer. Eight gardens are featured in the series. The best-known of the owners is the actor Ray Ashcroft, who plays DS Daly in The Bill and lives at No 5 with his wife and three children. The most flamboyant are Kay and Billy Harraps, who want a fun garden with a cartoonish and beach feel. The least conventional are Cariona Paterson and Steve Herbert, who use their garden to bury the placenta from the birth of their son and plant a birch tree to mark the spot.

### Goodness Gracious Me

BBC2, 9.30pm

The comedy sketch show continues to prove that humour from the Asian community can have mainstream appeal. The talented team not only offers a fresh perspective on British society as a whole but is prepared to confront, and even laugh at, its own culture. As always with a sketch format, the quality is uneven. A winking, sniggering Bollywood film star, new for this second series, is already threatening to outstay his welcome. But some of the older creations still score, notably the more-English-than-English Kapoors and Mr Cheque Please, the diner with the unfortunate chat-up lines for his female guests. As before the principal performers are Meera Syal, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghir and Nina Wadia. Syal and Bhaskar are also among the writers.

### Britain's Most Wanted

ITV, 9.00pm

Despite the dramatic title this six-part series is essentially another version of the Crimewatch formula of restaging unsolved crimes and inviting viewers to help. Two familiar ITV faces, Penny Smith and Dermot Murnaghan, fill the roles taken on the BBC show by Jill Dando and Nick Ross. Among

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## Marking birth with birch



More English-than-English with the Kapoors and friends (BBC2, 9.30pm)

those featured on tonight's programme is Elaine Parent, who is wanted not only here but in the United States. A master of disguise who uses several aliases, she is sought by police investigating the death of an American woman found decapitated and handless. We are also asked for information that could trace the whereabouts of Deborah Steel, a pub landlady who was last seen in her home town of Ely in December last year. Apart from its appeals and reconstructions, the programme reports on new police initiatives against crime.

### The People v Jerry Sadowitz

Channel 5, 10.40pm

The Scottish comedian, who looks like the late Marty Feldman in a silly wig, returns with the raucous show which invites members of the audience to come up and let Sadowitz make fools of them. The surprise is that there are so many takers, for the Sadowitz speciality is to cut his guests short almost before they have opened their mouths. The idea is that nobody should be boring. In that case why is a man allowed to do a very bad Max Miller impersonation at mind-numbing length and not be given the red card? Talking of impersonations, the celeb "house" tonight is another funnyman, Malcolm Hardee. His General de Gaulle, evoked with a pair of spectacles placed strategically on a part of his anatomy not usually exposed on television, is as rude as it is funny. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

#### True Lies

Radio 4, 6.30pm

The 6.30 slot in the new Radio 4 schedules has had a smoother ride from listeners and critics than the 1.30 quiz slot, even though there has been an uneven feel to the actual programming at both times. *True Lies* is described as "a new topical panel game", the word topical being a euphemism for "no preview tape available". I will risk a recommendation, without spinning you any tales, for *True Lies*, presented by David Aaronovich, is essentially a quiz with spin-doctoring. Each week three guests will place their tongues in their cheeks and translate some of the gobbledygook attached to the week's news, perhaps including explanations of such recent 10 Downing Street phrases as "salient fact".

#### RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zane 6.30am Simon Mayo 12.00 John Peel 12.30am Newbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 8.00 Judge Judy 11.00 Westside 1.00am Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Groovedance 4.00 Emma B

#### RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.15 Wuthering Heights 8.30 The Radio 2 Band 10.00 David Tennant with Easy Does It 10.30 The Arts Programme 12.00 Lynn Parsons 4.00pm Jackie Bird

#### RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Worwood and Victoria Derbyshire 7.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. Headlines from around the world, with Anna Webster 1.00pm Ruzsice and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight 10.00 Late Night Live with Brian Hayes, including the Financial World Tonight 1.00am Up All Night. Richard Dainty presents worldwide news coverage

#### VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hat 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard West

#### TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Owen 6.00 The Breakfast Show 8.00 Scott Chinholm 11.00 Lorraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Reid 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Nick Abbot 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins & the Creatives Of The Night

#### Wuthering Heights

Radio 2, 9.15pm

The 150th anniversary of Emily Brontë's death provides a good excuse for a great story and *Wuthering Heights* is certainly that. One of the few classics to have spawned every kind of offshoot, from several film versions to the pop song by Kate Bush, *Wuthering Heights* has been adapted by Neville Teller and is read in seven parts by Paul McGann, for whom, as for most of us, Heathcliff is one of the great enigmas of literature. The strong themes of love and revenge in the story are all the more remarkably conveyed given that Brontë was only 29 years old when she finished the book. This is not the first adaptation to help make Radio 2's schedules as important as those of Radio 4 for those who enjoy book readings. Peter Barnard

#### BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 6.30 The Way We Are 6.45 Translations 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Tales from 10/10 7.30 Music Review 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westside 8.30am John Peel 9.00 News (8.48 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Early Versions 9.30 Speaking of English 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Assignment 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Focus on Asia 12.00 News 12.05am World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Wood, Guts and Brass 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Alternative 3.00 News (8.48 only) News in German 3.05 Football Extra 3.15 To Be Continued 3.30 Science in Action 4.00 News 4.15 Soundcheck 4.30 Insight (8.48 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Focus on Asia (8.48 only) News in German 6.45 Britain Today 6.50 Europe Today 7.30 Summary 7.51 Outlook 7.55 Pause for Thought 7.58 Multitrack Alternative 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Alternative 12.00 Newsweek 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 To Be Continued 1.45 Poems by Post 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 Science in Action 4.00 Newsweek 4.30 Insight 4.45 Off the Shelf

#### CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast 8.00 Henry Kelly includes the Hall of Fame Hour 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Hoffmann (Cello Concerto in D minor) 3.00 Janine Croft. Contrabass Classics, plus sport updates and travel news 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven John Bunn introduces classic sounds 8.00 Evening Concert. Sellen (Piano Concerto in B flat major), Tausig (Gloria for String Orchestra), Lully (Les Indes Galantes), Grandson (Violin Sonata), Alan Bouillon. Darius (The Song of a Great City) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto 3.00 Mark Griffiths with the Early Breakfast Show

#### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air As a series about the history of art begins on television. Stephanie Hughes talks to Waldemar Januszczak. Includes Kodaly (Dances of Galánta), Dvorak (Nocturnal Writings) 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hoadley. Tchaikovsky (Voyevode) Bruch (Violin Concerto No 2 in D minor), Scharif (Sonata in F minor, K4519), Shostakovich (Symphony No 5) 10.30 Artists of the week. Medley of Shostakovich 11.00 Sound Stories Richard Baker looks at the life of David Murray 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (1) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra Conductors Eij Oue and Tadaaki Otaka. Lars Vogl (piano), Rossini (Overture: The Thieving Magpie), Grace Williams (The Thieving Magpie), Rossini (Overture: The Thieving Magpie), Rossini (Overture: The Thieving Magpie) 3.00 The Radio 3 Afternoon Concert (2) 4.00 Music Restored Lucie Shepperson introduces another from the year's York Early Music Festival. Music by John Ward, Dowland, Landgrave of Hessen, Gregorio Huel, Dufay, Handel and Byrd is performed by artists including Emma Kirkby, soprano; Nigel North, lute; and the ensemble Sinfonia (1)

#### RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day With the Rev Lesley Carroll 5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys 6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update from Westminster 8.00 Desert Island Discs Sir Joseph Roibal (1) 9.45 (FM) The Act of Worship 10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests 10.10 Flying Start Patrick French investigates the tale of a Portsmouth carpenter purported to have built and flown his own aircraft eight years before the Wright brothers (1) 11.30 Grilles. Sudha Bhattacharya and Shaheen Khan's story chronicling the truth and triumphs of two women living in SW13. With Shashana Ramesh and Shaheen Khan (1/4) (1) 12.00 (FM) News 12.05 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.05pm You and Yours Time: Retirement and John White looks more consumer concerns 1.00pm The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke 1.30 Screen Test Brian Sibley chairs the challenging film quiz from the Tyneside Cinema in Newcastle 2.00 The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: In Singapore A lily-scented woman looks back on her childhood in Singapore. James Lapierre, Kelly Hunter and John Rowe 3.00 Making History Roger Wilkes helps listeners research their own historical mysteries 3.30 Dedicated to Olga Leslie Forbes offers an insight into the authors' dedications (1) 3.45 Feedback Presented by Chris Dunkley 4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter looks at the Franco-German debate (1) 4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends 5.00 PM with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 True Lies See Choice 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Frost Row Francine Stock presents the nightly arts review 7.45 Bill Waters (1) 8.00 Any Questions? A panel including Lady Tremain and Lord Jenson debate issues raised in the Archers, Hampshire, Jonathan Dimbleby chairs 8.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.00 The Friday Play: Mother Teresa in Kilburn by John Dove. A chance encounter leads Kate to a homeless shelter in Kilburn. Starring Isabella Potter, Leona Dmytra and Lesley Vickerage 10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulme Philip Frank's reads part five of Alain-Fournier's vintage tale (1) 11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd and guests with more late-night sports conversation and features, as England's rugby squad begin their campaign for the 1998 World Cup 11.30 (FM) Notes from the Ditch Anne Enright encourages writers and critics to share opinions on gamesmanship in sport 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping Sean Barrett concludes Gabriel Garcia Marquez's account of Colombian drug cartel 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 625, 925. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 198 (12.45-5.59am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 108.8. MW 1197, 1212. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1088. John McNamara

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More English than English with the Kapors and friends (BBC2, 9.30pm)

People's Jerry Sadovitz (BBC2, 9.30pm)

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# Rare (lower) case of amusing social satire

I was a bit worried about *dinnerladies* (BBC1). This appears with a small "d" in the title sequence, by the way, as if it were "summat dead modern," or a poem by e.e.cummings. I was worried because there comes a time in every national icon's life when they lapse into self-caricature or retreat the same creative tyres to the point where the grey fibrous stuff becomes visible and you know it is already going flat.

And Victoria Wood, sorry Victoria Wood, is a national icon, as Wednesday night's *The Best of British* (BBC1) reminded us. It's an inspiring story, rising from an unpromisingly humble northern background, driven only by a craving for stardom and a mischievous relish for the ironies and absurdities of everyday life, without which she might have turned into something like — aargh — Jeanette Winterson.

She has created her own space

between the tedious Tarby-type variety turns and the new alternative establishment, and has her own, apparently devoted repertory company: Julie Walters, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and the rest. She is possibly unique as a middle-market performer whose material can be as intelligent and socially perceptive as any Oxbridge satirist, and a lot more so than most.

But she also belongs to that well-established school of northern domestic surrealism, which includes Peter Tinniswood and Alan Bennett, all punctured fantasies, non-sequiturs and aesthetic juxta-position. (Incidentally, Thor's Hird's heart-stopping performance in the last of Bennett's *Talking Heads II* on Wednesday evening (BBC2) must surely have killed off the argument about whether the second series has been any good or not.)

If her sketches have a fault it is a

tendency to create characters who are just too amiably daft, formulaic, a touch patronising, like nice versions of "The Fat Sausages" in *Viz*. *dinnerladies*, I feared, might turn out to be an over-extended sketch full of such characters and the opening exchanges, with Wood herself as Bren, going on about the lack of "wholemeal torpedoes" in the bread delivery looked decidedly ominous.

But suddenly they were trading urban myths about lesbians inseminating themselves with turkey-basters (They get the sperm off the Internet), and someone's Auntie Dot from Cockermouth caring a ruffa coaster — she thought it was a high-fibre biscuit and had to be physically restrained from buttering two more.

Celia Imrie wintured in and out as a nerry human resources manager called Philippa ("Flip-

per? He's a whale, in't he?" Is he not a dolphin, Flipper?), obsessed with Scottish country dancing. "I'll just freefall if I may," she says at a motivational buzz-session, before suggesting they all massage each other to general alarm. "So we wouldn't be naked? Because some of these appliances spit fat."

Julie Walters plays Bren's batty mother, who appears to believe she is some kind of theatrical agent ("I

instinct of Body Story. Channel 4's new human anatomy series. Big mistake.

The programme told the story of an imaginary character called John Palmer, an overweight 45-year-old with a stressful lifestyle, who doesn't get enough exercise and eats too much fatty food. Inevitably, John had a heart attack which nearly killed him. He was lucky not to be a character in *Casualty* where it probably would have killed him.

As an overweight 46-year-old with a stressful lifestyle and so on, I found this all a bit near the knuckle. The computer animation turned his heart attack into a tense science-fiction thriller. When he rashly joined a lunchtime kickabout, we actually saw his red blood cells rupturing the fatty plaque in the artery feeding his heart and damming it up. It was dramatic, a medical revelation and completely terrifying.

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

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- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (56416)
  - 7.00 Breakfast News (25590)
  - 9.00 Kilroy (T) (8618023)
  - 9.40 Style Challenge Will two James Bond fans be shaken or stirred by their makeovers? (5524874)
  - 10.00 City Hospital (T) (9668787)
  - 10.58 News (9348771)
  - 11.00 Real Roads A look back at the summer trip to a Romanian orphanage (9438348)
  - 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook with Anselm Harriot (T) (9431435)
  - 11.58 News (1069900) 12.00 Pass the Buck (408145) 12.25pm Going for a Song (4975752) 12.50 The Weather Show (T) (93587484)
  - 1.00 News and weather (35077)
  - 1.30 Regional News (7349170)
  - 1.40 Neighbours (T) (67930023)
  - 2.05 Inside (T) (9190313)
  - 2.55 Wipeout (2463706)
  - 3.25 Playdays (T) (6112690) 3.45 Bananaman (T) (8614232) 3.50 The All-New Popeye Show (T) (3778874) 3.55 Dear Mr Barker (1989961) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (T) (9326874) 4.35 Lintard's Record Breakers (T) (7995926) 5.00 Newsnight (T) (4553313) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (6888110)
  - 5.38 Neighbours (T) (T) (409435)
  - 6.00 News (T) and weather (139)
  - 6.30 Regional News (619)
  - 7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer news (T) (5855)
  - 7.30 Top of the Pops with guest 17: Talyana Ali, Touch & Go, Eagle Eye Cherry, Faith Evans, and Cher (T) (503)
  - 8.00 Changing Rooms Three dentists and a doctor from Sheffield happily swap their scalpel for screwdrivers to demonstrate their various DIY skills (T) (7503)
  - 8.30 Party of a Lifetime A South London theatre company plan an end-of-season knees-up (T) (3110)
  - 9.00 News and weather (2892)
  - 9.30 Dangerfield: The Lost Boy Paige and Cramer team up to investigate strange goings-on in the village of Thornton. With Nigel Havers (T) (726274)
  - 10.25 Commando (1985) Retired special agent Arnold Schwarzenegger employs an extensive arsenal of high-tech weaponry to wage a one-man war against the terrorists who kidnapped his daughter. Also starring Ray Danton, Dan Hedaya and Vernon Wells. Directed by Mark L. Lester (5330866) WALES: 10.25 Peter Karrie Unhushed (927145) 10.55 FILM: Commando (1985) 11.00 The Stand-Up Show (54578) 12.45-2.10 FILM: Excessive Force (4567240)
  - 11.45 The Stand-Up Show featuring the talents of Rhona Cameron and Ian Stone (874874)
  - 12.15am Excessive Force (1993) Violent martial arts adventure, written by and starring Thomas Ian Griffith as an unconventional Chicago policeman wrongly accused of murder. Directed by Jon Hesse (6375820)
  - 1.35 Weather (1651443)
  - 1.40 BBC News 24
- VIDEO Plus+** and **VIDEO Plus+** codes  
The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming, just enter the VIDEO Plus+ code for the relevant programme into your video recorder for easy taping.  
For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0840 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute. 7.00pm VIDEO Plus+ is a registered trademark of Genesis Development Corporation. © 1998

- BBC2**
- 6.10am Siena Cathedral (3410110)
  - 7.00 History Jeremy (T) (5773684) 7.05 Teletubbies (T) (2584226) 7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (T) (2386666) 7.55 Smart (T) (5688955) 8.20 Robinson Smoot (T) (9271400) 8.45 Johnny and Friends (6066709) 8.55 Harry Jones (5555077)
  - 9.00 Dynamo (7583752) 9.10 See You, See Me (5978226) 9.30 Watch (860145)
  - 9.45 Come Outside (8523400) 10.00 Teletubbies (T) (15771) 10.30 Megamaths (T) (9904042) 10.50 Look and Read (9097708) 11.10 Landmarks (9856752) 11.30 English File (2167) 12.00 Testament: The Bible in Animation (33058)
  - 12.30pm Working Lunch (99771) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (6831491) 1.10 Sophie Grigson's Herbs: sage (43221961) 1.15 The History Hour: Dundee (T) (499232) 2.15 Match of the Day: John Mosen (70657329) 2.40 News (T) (7119228) 2.45 On Cue: snooker archives including the World Championship final from 1994 between Jimmy White and Stephen Hendry (5021023) 3.25 News (T) (7978503) 3.30 Gardeners' World (T) (T) (597)
  - 4.00 Change That (T) (T) (368936) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (3682023) 4.55 Lowri: pampered pets (T) (5457597) 5.30 Today's Day (T) (868)
  - 6.00 The Simpsons (T) (T) (845752)
  - 6.45 Robot Wars (T) (518706)
  - 7.15 Electric Circus (900435)
  - 7.30 Bookworm with Griff Rhys Jones. The works of P.G. Wodehouse: Felicity Kandal on her childhood in India; popular science books (T) (145)
  - 8.00 Wilderness Walks A tour of County Mayo with writer Jim Perrin (T) (5145)
- HTV**
- 6.00 GMTV (9138435)
  - 9.25 Trisha (T) (9171892)
  - 10.15 This Morning Guests include Isabella Rossellini, actress and model daughter of Ingrid Bergman (T) (41294313)
  - 12.15pm Regional News (235789)
  - 12.30 News (T) and weather (83597)
  - 1.00 Shortland Street (20145)
  - 1.30 Home and Away (T) (82868)
  - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (1849431)
  - 2.40 WALES: Animal Country (2452690)
  - 2.45 Relative Knowledge (T) (2452690)
  - 3.10 News (7977874)
  - 3.15 Regional News (7978145)
  - 3.20 Wizards (T) (7884110) 3.30 Archibald the Koala (7275394) 3.45 The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (2553416) 4.05 Barnard's Watch (4750497) 4.20 Fun House (T) (3783708) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (2312139)
  - 5.10 A Country Practice (4852416)
  - 5.40 News (T) and weather (202139)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (701708)
  - 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (819400)
  - 6.25 HTV West Tonight (19874)
  - 7.00 The West Tonight (T) (787)
  - 7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (T) (3333)
  - 7.30 Coronation Street Liz and Michael head off into the sunset (T) (771)
  - 8.00 The Bill: Dog Eat Dog Sam and Crier have different ideas over how to deal with the killing of a young prostitute (T) (8139)
- Meridian**
- 9.00 Britain's Most Wanted Reconstructions: surveillance footage and features on Britain's most wanted criminals (T) (4503)
  - 10.00 News (T) and weather (56313)
  - 10.30 Regional News (969225)
  - 10.40 Friday Night's All Right (1/5) Ian Wright, is joined by his former Arsenal team mate Tony Adams, Paul Walker, Captain Kathy Burke, and Honeyz (64681)
  - 11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (153139)
  - 12.00am Soundtrack (1505379)
  - 12.25 Pirate TV Two hands journey around Britain, stopping off at sports locations in an attempt to set up their own television station. Tonight, they attend the Melbury Surf Festival, Cornwall (7585559)
  - 12.55 God's Gift (T) (1683191)
  - 1.55 Club@vision (7488498)
  - 2.40 The Haunted Flatmate (6801530)
  - 3.10 Keoma (1976) with Franco Nero, William Berger and Woody Strode. At the end of the war of succession, Keoma returns to his native town and attempts to restore law and order (686240)
  - 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (7311646)
  - 5.30 News (56358)

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  - 10.15 This Morning Guests include Isabella Rossellini, actress and model daughter of Ingrid Bergman (T) (41294313)
  - 12.15pm Regional News (235789)
  - 12.30 News (T) and weather (83597)
  - 1.00 Shortland Street (20145)
  - 1.30 Home and Away (T) (82868)
  - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (1849431)
  - 2.40 WALES: Animal Country (2452690)
  - 2.45 Relative Knowledge (T) (2452690)
  - 3.10 News (7977874)
  - 3.15 Regional News (7978145)
  - 3.20 Wizards (T) (7884110) 3.30 Archibald the Koala (7275394) 3.45 The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (2553416) 4.05 Barnard's Watch (4750497) 4.20 Fun House (T) (3783708) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (2312139)
  - 5.10 A Country Practice (4852416)
  - 5.40 News (T) and weather (202139)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (701708)
  - 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (819400)
  - 6.25 HTV West Tonight (19874)
  - 7.00 The West Tonight (T) (787)
  - 7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (T) (3333)
  - 7.30 Coronation Street Liz and Michael head off into the sunset (T) (771)
  - 8.00 The Bill: Dog Eat Dog Sam and Crier have different ideas over how to deal with the killing of a young prostitute (T) (8139)
- Meridian**
- 9.00 Britain's Most Wanted Reconstructions: surveillance footage and features on Britain's most wanted criminals (T) (4503)
  - 10.00 News (T) and weather (56313)
  - 10.30 Regional News (969225)
  - 10.40 Friday Night's All Right (1/5) Ian Wright, is joined by his former Arsenal team mate Tony Adams, Paul Walker, Captain Kathy Burke, and Honeyz (64681)
  - 11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (153139)
  - 12.00am Soundtrack (1505379)
  - 12.25 Pirate TV Two hands journey around Britain, stopping off at sports locations in an attempt to set up their own television station. Tonight, they attend the Melbury Surf Festival, Cornwall (7585559)
  - 12.55 God's Gift (T) (1683191)
  - 1.55 Club@vision (7488498)
  - 2.40 The Haunted Flatmate (6801530)
  - 3.10 Keoma (1976) with Franco Nero, William Berger and Woody Strode. At the end of the war of succession, Keoma returns to his native town and attempts to restore law and order (686240)
  - 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (7311646)
  - 5.30 News (56358)

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  - 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (7311646)
  - 5.30 News (56358)



Dermot Murnaghan and Penny Smith appeal for viewers' help (5pm)

Britain's Most Wanted Reconstructions: surveillance footage and features on Britain's most wanted criminals (T) (4503)

10.00 News (T) and weather (56313)

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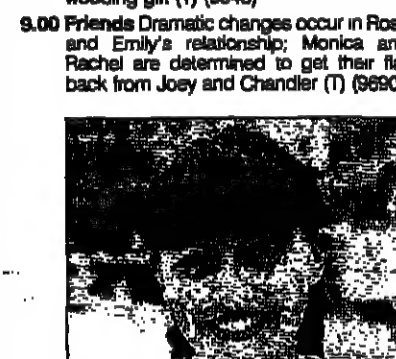
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4.50 ITV Nightscreen (7311646)

5.30 News (56358)



Davina McCall introduces more prospective loving couples (9.30pm)

1.00pm Echo Plot (20145)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9994394)

2.40-3.10 Heart of the Country (2452690)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4852416)

6.25-7.00 Central News (819400)

11.30 Nash Bridges (29694)

12.30am God's Gift (45153)

1.30 Club@vision (249761)

2.15 World Football (5154627)

2.40 seeQuest DSV (2044153)

3.30 Central Tonight '98 (381801)

5.20 Asian Eye (3881240)

As HTV West except:

12.15pm Westcountry News (3797139)

12.27-12.30 Illuminations (915619)

1.00 One for the Girls (20145)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9994394)

2.40-3.10 Westcountry Update (2452690)

5.08 Birthday People (9302313)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4852416)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (84416)

11.30 Pulling Power Special: International Motorcycle Show (74121)

12.00am The Making of Still Crazy (7576172)

As HTV West except:

12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (3797139)

1.00-1.30 Split Second (20145)

1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (9994394)

2.35-3.10 A Splash of Colour (5038313)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4852416)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (84416)

5.00am Freescreen (20004)

As HTV West except:

12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (9119435)

1.00-1.30 Split Second (20145)

1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (9994394)

2.35-3.10 A Splash of Colour (5038313)

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5.00am Freescreen (20004)

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12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (9119435)

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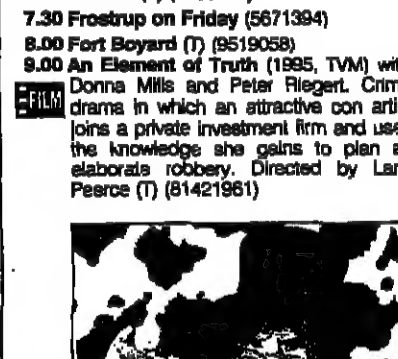
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6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (84416)

5.00am Freescreen (20004)



Jerry Sadovitz offers his unique view of the world in a new series (10.40pm)

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.82075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News and Sport (2863400) 7.00 WideWorld (T) (T) (6604077) 7.30 Milkshake! (6416049)

7.35 What's the Deal? (T) (1045313) 8.00 Newsnight (T) (2095955) 8.30 Dappledawn Farm (2937225)

9.00 Floyd Uncovered (T) (7857394) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4776690) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9006283)

10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2541619) 11.10 Leeza (T) (9483884) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2931042)

12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (7862110) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6603548) 1.30 Son of Rambow (T) (5186394)

2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5186394)

2.30 Good Afternoon (5671077)

3.00 The Love Boat (21977) TVM with Ken Berry and Doreen Ringer. Romantic comedy featuring four stories set aboard a luxury cruise ship. Directed by Hy Averback (1151315)

5.20 The Roseanne Show (2288246) 5.50 100 Per Cent (574058) 6.30 Family Affairs (T) (5675110)

7.00 5 News (T) (5180110)

7.30 Frostur on Friday (5671394)

8.00 Fort Boyard (T) (9519058)

9.00 An Element of Truth (1995, TVM) with Donna Mills and Peter Bergin. Crime drama in which an attractive con artist joins a private investigation firm and uses the knowledge she gains to plan an elaborate robbery. Directed by Larry Pearce (T) (81421961)

10.40 The People v Jerry Sadovitz: New series with the Scottish comedian (757226)

11.15 Summer of '42 (1971) with Jennifer O'Neill and Gary Grimes. Oscar-winning drama charting the sexual awakening of a group of teenagers. Directed by Robert Mulligan (5038110)

1.10am The Initiation of Sarah (1978, TVM) with Kay Lenz and Shelley Long. A naive college girl arrives on campus to find her fellow students involved in a bizarre cult. Directed by Robert Day (5691298)

2.55 Liberation (1977) Biopic of the flamboyant socialist with Andrew Robinson and Rue McClanahan. Directed by Billy Hale (8310337)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2863801)

5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (1834882)

**SKY SPORTS 3**

- 11.30am Futura in Sport 12.00 Tennis World 1.00pm Tennis World 2.00pm Tennis World 3.00pm Tennis World 4.00pm Tennis World 5.00pm Tennis World 6.00pm Tennis World 7.00pm Tennis World 8.00pm Tennis World 9.00pm Tennis World 10.00pm Tennis World 11.00pm Tennis World 12.00am Tennis World





## RUGBY 49

Magic all the way:  
how McLaren's voice  
makes the difference

## SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

## ICE SKATING 50

Only 14 but ready  
to compete with  
the best in the land



## Manager resigns post after failing to maintain the quality of Mersey

## Tears as Evans laments leaving of Liverpool

By STEPHEN WOOD

THE boot-room that became part of the folklore of English football, let alone at Anfield, was demolished six years ago but, since then, its spirit had survived with the managerial reign of Roy Evans. Yesterday, however, as Evans left the club that has been his employer for 34 years, tradition was swept away on a wave of emotion.

Evans relinquished his position as joint-manager of Liverpool by mutual consent, leaving Gerard Houllier, his partner, to assume sole control. Houllier, the Frenchman, is the first foreigner to lead Liverpool, but he acknowledged the importance of the club's past by appointing Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool captain, as his assistant.

The scenario had been expected, the intensity of events yesterday less so. In a bizarre changing of the guard, Evans delivered his valedictory messages before being driven away through the Shankly Gates: moments later Houllier arrived to take the seat he had vacated at the press conference.

David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, was the common bond between the two briefings. Close friends since Evans's arrival at Anfield in 1964 as a player, Moores sounded thoroughly sick at what he was having to do.

It could hardly have escaped Evans's notice that the venue for this public split was the

trophy room, underneath the main stand. Evans managed to add just one piece of silverware to it, the League Cup in 1995, and that return put him on borrowed time.

In a touching tribute, Moores insisted he could "talk for hours about Roy and his respect for him", before Evans himself tried to explain how it had come to this. The decision by the Liverpool board to create a dual managership system became reality when Houllier joined, amid smiles and confidence, in July of this year.

However, in the past month it appears that Evans realised the importance of the club's past by appointing Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool captain, as his assistant.

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Moores, the Liverpool chairman and a close friend of Evans, looks on as the manager says an emotional farewell. Photograph: Dave Kendall

succeeding Bill Shankly. Evans was offered another role at the club, but he turned it down. "I thought it best to make a clean break," he said. "It would be easy to be a ghost on the wall, but perhaps it would be best, especially for me, if I got away from it all for a while."

He explained that his goodbyes with the players, at the Melwood training ground, had been brief, so high was the level of emotion. Evans was a popular man, but his affection towards the players who let him down so often probably hastened his departure.

Evans has become, therefore, the last manager to graduate from the Anfield boot-room, an institution developed by Shankly, the manager of Liverpool from 1959 to 1974. His successors, Paisley, Joe Fagan, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness, were all steeped in its history.

Houllier ushered in a new era solemnly. "This is the saddest moment of my short time at Liverpool," he said. "Roy

came into the office for the last time and it was very moving. I feel sorry for him because he was so dedicated to this club. The last message he had was for the players to keep their heads up and to be successful here — that was all he ever wanted."

Houllier told Moores that he wanted someone with a "Liverpool heart" as his assistant and Thompson's name was put forward. "I had a call on my mobile from the chairman, just before I was due to play five-a-side with some other former players," Thompson said. "I was shocked when I was offered the job, but it is the greatest day of my life."

Thompson was sacked as reserve team coach by Souness in 1992. His return is motivated by the need to instil discipline and passion into the team, but it was a strange sight as his presence dominated Houllier at the press conference. Houllier admitted he did not know Thompson, but said: "There is only one manager now, and we will not be making the same mistake."

## White is banned for 16 weeks

By ALASDAIR REID

JASON WHITE, the Glasgow Caledonians flanker, has been banned from rugby for 16 weeks after being found guilty of stamping on the head of Braam van Straaten, the South African stand-off half, during the match at Firhill on Tuesday evening.

The sentence, which will keep White, 20, out of rugby until March 2 next year, was handed down by the match commissioner, Allan Hosie, at a disciplinary hearing at Murrayfield yesterday.

White had been cited by the South Africans for illegal use of the boot after an incident in the 65th minute. A BBC recording of the game showed that his foot had come down on the head of the grounded Van Straaten, piercing his head guard.

In upholding the charge, and delivering a sentence almost twice as long as the recommended minimum 60 days, Hosie rejected the defence of White that the contact had been accidental.

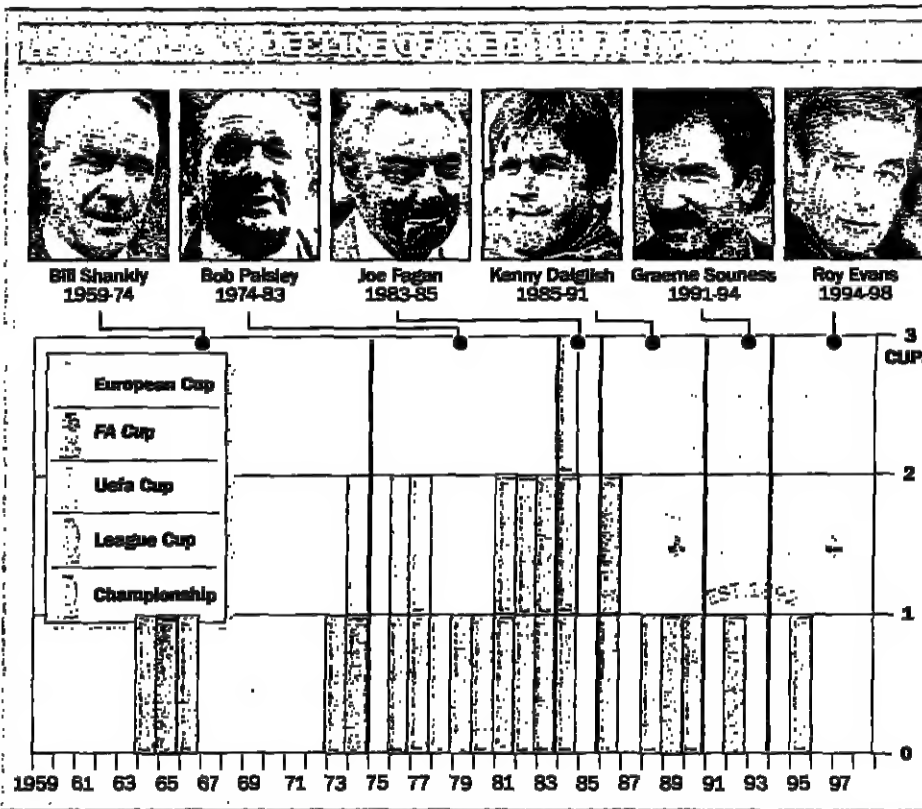
Hosie, the former international referee who is chairman of the Five Nations Committee, was also critical of the war of words that had broken out after the incident.

"I don't want to comment on the sentence directly," he said, "but I'd like to observe that comments attributed to certain personnel connected with both teams in advance of the disciplinary hearing were misguided and misplaced, and should not happen again."

The obvious target of Hosie's words is Nick Mallet, the South African coach, who spoke openly and angrily about the incident immediately after the match.

David Jordan, the Caledonians chief executive, last night expressed astonishment that his side had also attracted the wrath of the official. "I thought we conducted ourselves in a perfectly dignified fashion," he said. Jordan confirmed that an appeal would be lodged, but refused to say whether it would be against the verdict itself or the length of sentence.

White, who has captained Scotland at schools and age-group levels, has been widely tipped to become a full international player in the future. Arthur Petersen, the Springboks manager, said: "We are satisfied. The team now wants to put this unfortunate incident behind us."



## Schmeichel makes last shout

Rob Hughes on the goalkeeper's decision to leave Old Trafford

IF, as expected, Mark Bosnich steps into the shadow of Peter Schmeichel as Manchester United goalkeeper after this season, his task will be to fill not only the boots of one of the biggest athletes in football, but also to replace a perfectionist.

Schmeichel announced yesterday, one week shy of his 35th birthday, that he asked to be released from the most coveted goalkeeping role in England. He is not retiring, rather he hopes to prolong his career by moving abroad, probably to France, where there is more time between matches, a less severe regimen to England's, which is so tough on nerve and sinew and concentration.

He is honest enough to say that the back, the joints, the hamstrings cannot now respond to the standards he and United have set one another. England's mania for more games, more pay-nights, is at odds with his encroaching years, and rather than wait while his reputation wilts, he has called time on a chapter of achievement.

Good for him, and good for United that they will allow him to go without fee. This allows him to negotiate terms that will enrich his final sporting years possibly more than United's pay structure permits: a loyalty pay-off in these increasingly disloyal post-Bos-

man days. The signs were becoming writ large. Errors were creeping into his game, notably the rash misunderstanding when he rushed off his line and into the back of Jaap Stam, costing Manchester a Champions' League victory in Munich a month ago. Besides, it is a goalkeeper's job to have eyes and ears everywhere, and age cannot have wearied Schmeichel so much that he hasn't heard or read that Bosnich is to walk out on Aston Villa next spring, probably lined up for Old Trafford.

Olympique Marseilles and AS Monaco are two clubs ready to take Schmeichel to the French Riviera, where warmer winds soothe athletic limbs, and where the space between games has a far more recuperative rhythm.

"I'm enjoying the game as much as ever," Schmeichel said yesterday, "but it's getting harder to keep pace. I need to train more than ever, and to prepare properly I need more time between games than I can get in England. I certainly need more than 12 days' summer holiday."

Alex Ferguson, who paid Brondby £500,000 for Schmeichel in August 1991, describes the big, blond Dane as "a major player in United's success... an inspiration and an influence to everyone." The style of that "influence" could look fearfully belligerent, and some players dubbed Schmeichel "The German" for his constant shouts that could almost seal the numbers off their backs.

Yet with him, they lifted the albatross that had denied United the league title for 26 years — in less than a quarter of that time Schmeichel has been a championship winner four times and won the FA Cup

twice. The hunger to achieve, and to repeat the achievement, came, he said, from knowing what real life was like. "The son of a professional musician, Peter Schmeichel was an apprentice carpet fitter, a salesman, a cleaner until, at 24, he became a full-time goalkeeper. The towering ego on the field contrasts to a polite, thoughtful Scandinavian manner away from competition. He roomed with Eric Cantona and shared hours with the Frenchman at the chess board.

We glimpsed his compassionate side when he attended to David Buist after a shattered broken leg ended the career of the Coventry City defender in Schmeichel's goalmouth. More private is Schmeichel the family man, who plays the piano for relaxation, and who reflected recently: "I was pointing out on a map to my son, Kasper, all the countries I'd been to when I realised I could hardly tell him about anything other than hotels and stadiums."

Spoken with a Mancunian accent, the legacy of his time at Old Trafford, Schmeichel has half a year more to add a fifth championship, maybe a European Cup, and possibly pass the 350-appearance milestone with Manchester United. His release, however, is not an ending: Schmeichel has 107 caps for Denmark, and every intention of adding to them.

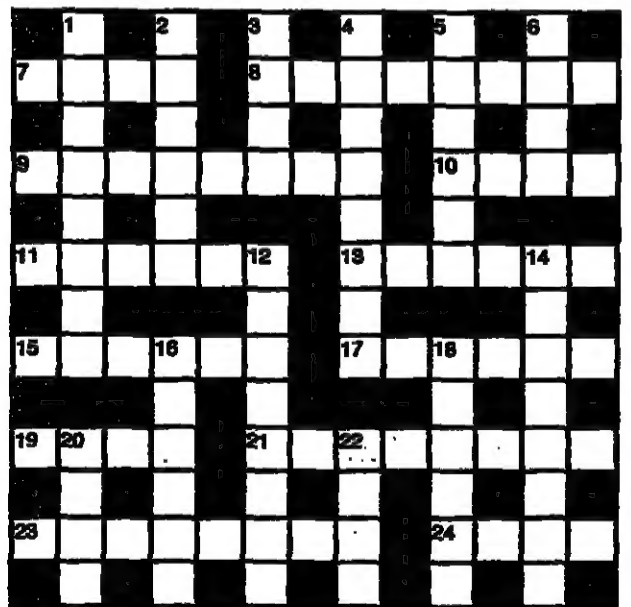


Schmeichel: feeling his age

THE SUNDAY TIMES 13 pages of sport

PLUS TOP SPORTS COLUMNISTS SIMON BARNES, ROBERT ELMS AND LYNN TRUSS

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1562

## ACROSS

- 7 Front warning shout (4)  
8 In a third stage (8)  
9 A US state: a creeper (8)  
10 Walk (through stream) (4)  
11 Handcart (6)  
13 Filled glass: protection on car (6)  
15 Regular correspondent (3,3)  
17 Preserve (body) (6)  
19 Slide out of control (4)  
21 Three-panel altar-piece (8)  
23 Russian alphabet (8)  
24 Very eager (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Pounder (8)  
2 Union (of egg companies) (6)  
3 Knock unconscious (4)  
4 Introductory statement (8)  
5 N American tent (6)  
6 Goad, poke (4)  
12 Behave with pride (4,4)  
14 Choosing best from various sources (8)  
16 Language mixture (6)  
18 Divulge: be disloyal to (6)  
20 Florida islands: diatonic scales (4)  
22 One needing scratch (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1561

ACROSS: 3 Amicable 7 Stolen 8 Flying 9 Gateau  
10 Purdah 11 Page 13 Three 15 Girl 17 Creepy  
18 Acuity 19 Action 20 Hubris 21 Threnody  
DOWN: 1 Strata 2 Allegre 3 Anguish 4 Collude 5 Brindisi  
6 Eggshell 11 Penchant 12 Go-getter 13 Typphoon 14 Empathy  
15 Grubby 16 Retain

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